THE AMERICAN
LEGION
FOR GOD AN RY
ber 1987

INTRODUCING
John P. "Jake" Comer
New National Commander
P. 22

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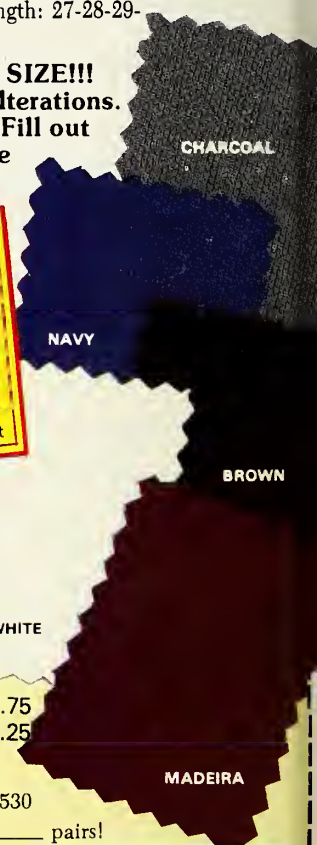

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THE AMERICAN LEGION

Vol. 123, No. 4 October 1987

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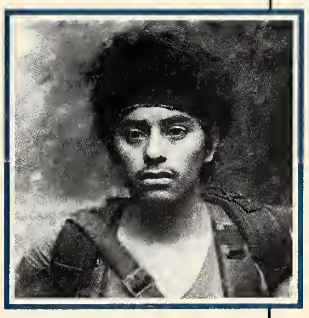

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THE COVER *A Contra on patrol. (J. B. Pictures)*

THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE, a leader among national general-interest publications, is published monthly by The American Legion for its 2.8 million members. These military-service veterans, working through 16,000 community-level posts, dedicate themselves to God and country and traditional American values; a strong national security; adequate and compassionate care for veterans, their widows and orphans; community service; and the wholesome development of our nation's youth.

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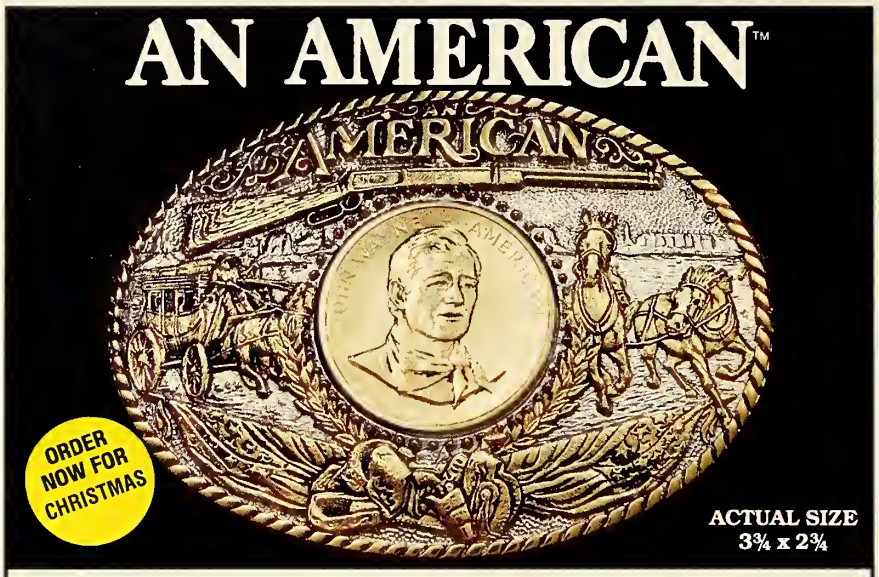

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Central America

Cmdr. Dean's April message is in accord with my personal opinion concerning the Sandinistas and the Marxist-Leninist government they have established in Nicaragua.

Consistent with revolutionary communist doctrine practiced by the Soviets and their surrogates, the Sandinistas' objectives are the subjugation of the Nicaraguan people, the destabilization of neighboring Central American countries by overt actions, curtailment of the role of the United States in the area, and the establishment of a Soviet-controlled base from which to expand power in our hemisphere.

If America fails to provide support for the Contras and to recognize the political and military threat that exists today in Central America, the United States may be faced with a military threat that may require a more direct and active involvement than presently envisioned. Our Commander is right: "For Evil to Flourish, Good Men Must Only Do Nothing." We of The American Legion should add our collective voices to his.

Alexander M. Haig Jr.
Washington, D.C.

It is refreshing to read that someone besides myself genuinely cares about the Soviet/Cuban presence in Central America.

But the article did not go far enough. It did not mention how veterans can help our friends down south. Two organizations that have helped donate equipment and medical gear to the Contras and the Salvadoran army are: Civilian Materiel Assistance, P.O. Box 22790, Memphis, TN 38122; and *Soldier of Fortune* magazine (El Salvador/Nicaraguan Defense Fund), P.O. Box 693, Boulder, CO 80306. Send fatigues, boots, web gear, medical equipment, ponchos, field jackets, etc.

Dale R. Smither
Marina, Calif.

It is regrettable that Cmdr. Dean concludes that the "best option available to counter the Sandinista-backed guerrillas is continued support for the Contras."

Instead of sending our tax millions in military aid to the Contras to kill innocent people, we should extend economic assistance to the Nicaraguans to better their lives.

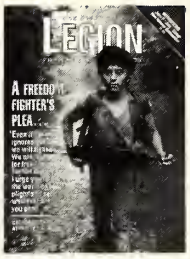
Peter C. Latsis
Culver City, Calif.

Many Legionnaires are sick and tired of seeing American tax dollars used for "extensive" foreign entanglements while the home front goes to pot.

Let's direct some of these American dollars to assist the problems facing the farmers, veterans, aged, education, homeless, medical research and our ever-increasing drug problem, instead of drowning those dollars in the "Pentagon treasury."

Joseph B. Sylva Jr.
Medford, Mass.

Something Evil This Way Comes



"There's something rotten in Central America—and you can smell it all the way to Washington, D.C.!"

That assessment of the nation's policies on Central America was made by The American Legion's Policy Coordination and Action Group, which undertook a series of study missions to five Central American countries.

Three fact-finding teams of Legionnaires, staff and consultants visited Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Costa Rica and Nicaragua during June and July to determine the truth behind the confusion in Central America.

Some Americans believe that the Sandinistas are good guys fighting for survival against those "thugs and thieves," the Contras. Others believe that the Sandinistas are Soviet- and Cuban-backed agents trained and determined to spread communism throughout Central America in any way possible, including oppression of their own people.

The fact-finding team that toured Nicaragua confirmed the dictatorship's suppression of personal freedoms. The Sandinistas restrict religious freedom—churches are forbidden even to print church bulletins. There is no freedom of the press, no freedom of speech, no freedom of assembly, no freedom to take polls, and no freedom to speak against the government without retribution. The Sandinistas claim such repression is only temporary and will be lifted when the Contras no longer pose a threat. What they don't explain is how religious freedom threatens military strategy.

Following their return from Central America, PCAG members reported their findings, which were published in a special edition of THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE and distributed to the delegates at the National Convention. That report is contained in this issue.

What the PCAG determined is that communism is flourishing in Nicaragua and, because of its inherently expansionist nature, poses a direct threat to the security of the United States. And recent "peace proposals" by this administration and by Central American nations themselves offer scant hope for democracy in Nicaragua because they fail to demand the outright expulsion of all Soviet and Cuban advisers, masterminds of communist revolution.

"The time to stop a revolution is at the beginning, not the end," said Adlai Stevenson. Considering the size of Nicaragua's Soviet- and Cuban-supplied military machine, which grew from a ragtag detail of 7,500 in 1980 to a well-equipped army of 75,000 in 1986—far more than it needs for defense—the "revolution" is well under way.

What we, as a nation, do now in the face of undisguised Soviet expansion to this hemisphere is critical. The Sandinista chokehold is growing stronger every day while U.S. policy is paralyzed.

The Editors

Farm Crisis Lives

"Our Hard-Hit Farmers, Is The Crisis Over?" (July), left more questions unanswered than answered.

If the government pays farmers to produce less food, the rest of us are penalized twice—first with higher prices and then with higher taxes.

In addition, why can't we expect farmers to produce goods economically? Farming is big business and survival depends upon an understanding of the principles of both marketing and economics.

Why can't we take advantage of foreign-subsidized farm products? If these countries are willing to pay us to use their goods, why not?

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What About Sunglasses

The unbelievable truth is that ORDINARY sunglasses may be dangerous to your eyes. Everybody knows that your eyes automatically adjust to light. When you wear plain darkened lenses, your pupils open wider to adjust for darkness — but this becomes harmful because your eyes are now letting MORE dangerous UV rays in.

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These Ambervision™ Super-Glasses will not be sold to any wholesalers, dealers, or retailers at this price. They are only available through this special publicity campaign for a limited time. There is a limit of two (2) pairs per address at this price, but requests that are mailed early enough (before Oct. 25) may request up to five. Each pair of Super-Glasses is covered by a full one year money back guarantee.

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size 5x7"

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LETTERS

As to rising food prices, I suspect Lyng is not the shopper in his home or he would already know that meat and produce prices have risen right along with convenience items.

Stuart Eadie
Forked River, N.J.

Your article is sadly lacking in a realistic appraisal of the agricultural problem. Each year the federal farm program is a copycat of the year before, with nuances that cost additional billions. The American farmer has become addicted to federal money in the form of numerous subsidy programs. The $51-billion program is the fastest growing in Washington and it is still not enough. The problems are worse than ever.

We have lost our foreign markets, perhaps forever. Modern technology in the form of hybrid seeds, pesticides, herbicides, chemicals and mechanization are being applied to the millions of virgin acres in Brazil, Argentina and other developing countries. We cannot match their market prices.

While federal subsidies encourage farmers to grow crops we don't need, cannot store, and have no markets for, other government agencies are spending monies to stop the resultant soil erosion that is choking our rivers and streams, and to solve the pollution of our ground water by the chemicals farmers so liberally use.

William Riley
La Crosse, Wis.

The public should know that with all the high government payments, farmers are still getting less for their produce than they were before the 1985 Farm Bill.

Here's the way it works: The government is paying the farmer 50 percent of what he receives so he can be competitive in the world market. However, two-thirds of his production are used right here in our own country. That, also, is selling for half price. So, the real beneficiaries of the Farm Bill are the millers, bakers, livestock feeders and bankers.

Jim Broply
Yuma, Colo.

Your article reports only the side of the situation as viewed by those who led farmers into the financial trap that has eliminated 2.4 million farms since 1970—only 2 million farms remain. Lyng and the entire USDA, coupled with the network of Ag colleges and Extension Services, continue to advise, "Get Big or Get Out," and their advice is intended to eliminate the small farms.

However, in Lyng's home state of California, "city dudes" are reversing that order. Those "ignorant" farmers are buying up parcels of the big farms that no longer can earn profits because they know they haven't a chance of surviving if they continue to farm the way the millions who have lost their farms did, and they are earning farming profits. California officials woke up in 1985 to realize that the number of farms in the state had increased by 17,000.

Texas politician Jim Hightower, with no extensive experience in agriculture, got himself elected to the position of Texas Commissioner of Agriculture. Even his severest critics—those who belong to the Lyng school of "chemical-only farming"—admit that Hightower has done an unbelievable job of increasing cash flow to family farmers by persuading them to engage in direct marketing of high-value crops of highly nutritious fruits, berries, nuts, grains and vegetables.

Having observed the "city dude" trend during the past 20 years, I forecast that instead of there being as few as 100,000 "super farms" in the year 2000, there'll be 5 million intelligently safe farms in operation.

Leland B. Taylor
Albuquerque, N.M.

Who Will Lead?

In response to "We Can Stop Terrorists" (June), we do not know where our hostages are. Even Israel, which has better intelligence than we, does not know. The first thing that would happen would be that our hostages would be executed. What does Vlahos mean by "proportionate damage"? One-for-one? Ten American deaths for each Lebanese death? Will our good Dr. Vlahos lead the troops? Will Vlahos personally visit each parent, wife, son or daughter of the Americans who are killed and see if they thought he was right when he said Americans would understand why they died?

Ralph Echave
Newport Beach, Calif.

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Voiding Uncashed Checks

Saying it has waited long enough, the Treasury Department wants to declare as worthless more than 5 million uncashed government checks, some dating back to World War I. The Treasury plans to impose a six-month deadline for cashing wayward checks. Existing laws allow the checks to remain on the books indefinitely.

The new policy would still make it possible to cash old checks, but anyone wishing to redeem a check more than six months old would have to go back to the issuing agency and request a replacement.

Treasury officials said the current policy is causing major bookkeeping problems. It is estimated that some 5.5 billion outstanding checks, worth $1.2 billion, are at least one year old. Half are more than 10 years old.

A total of $32,221.40 was paid last year to 361 Americans for checks more than 30 years old. The oldest check, for $1.01, was dated April 15, 1919. The smallest check, for 10 cents, was a 1955 tax refund.

U.S. Subsidies To Aliens?

Who's buying up our nation's farmlands and who's collecting that $1.74 billion in subsidies going to aid U.S. farmers each year? That's what Rep. Leon E. Panetta of California wanted to know, and here is what the General Accounting Office found out.

In 1985, 598 overseas investors collected $7.7 million in subsidies; half were corporations. Absentee farmers from West Germany and the Netherlands Antilles qualified for 50 percent of the subsidy payments; Swiss and Canadians, 10 percent each.

The GAO report noted that alien owners were able to qualify for payments by share-renting their land to U.S. farmers. Proposed legislation would prevent overseas individuals and corporations from receiving direct subsidies, but would, however, allow cash-renting to farmers, who then could qualify for federal aid.

America On The Move

America is literally on the move. A 12-year project to reset 250,000 of the nation's basic reference points has been completed, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration reported. The longitude-latitude reference points are used to fix boundary lines, locate space defense installations, orient weapon systems, track missiles, and for other purposes.

To the naked eye the Washington Monument appears the same, but on paper it has moved 94.8 feet northeast. The Empire State Building has shifted 120.5 feet northwest. The water tank in Bismarck, N.D., sidestepped west 101 feet. The biggest switch took place in Hawaii, where the flagpole in front of the Honolulu Judiciary Building jumped 1,480.8 feet southeast.

These changes were brought about by the use of earth-orbiting satellites that can precisely pinpoint just about any specific location, its height from the center of the earth, its latitude and longitude. This is a far cry, said NOAA officials, from 1927, when the last measurements were taken by surveyors who trekked mile-by-mile over land.

Most Americans will hardly feel the change in their daily lives. Property lines will remain intact, but new pinpointings will be required for surveyors and engineers, and military road-builders.

Push-button Age

By 2000, Americans will become deeply immersed in a computer world where they will simply push a button to pay taxes, collect benefits and conduct other business with the federal government. At least, that's the goal of some key planners in the Office of Management and Budget.

In support of a plan to develop and use the latest means of information technology, the government is preparing to purchase 35 mainframe computers, 300 minicomputers, 8,000 microcomputers and 15,000 work stations. This is only the beginning of an era that will eventually serve a computer-literate citizenry.

At the turn of the century, said Joseph R. Wright Jr., OMB deputy director, a more sophisticated, affluent generation of about 268 million people will take over. Raised on electronics and computers, healthier, more mobile and living in a service-oriented environment, they will insist the U.S. government provide high-tech services at lower costs, he said.

Seeking Alternative Fuels

Legislation in Congress aims to stimulate the development of alternative fuels for gasoline. The measure, supported by a formidable bloc of senators, comes at a time when the country is concerned if events in the Persian Gulf will bring about another oil crisis—and long lines at service stations.

Sponsors estimate that thousands of miners will go back to work digging up coal if methanol is made into an alternative fuel. The silos bursting with surplus grain also will be emptied and the grain converted to ethanol. And air pollution will be considerably reduced, according to the bill's supporters.

The legislation aims to produce not only alternative fuels, but also an auto tank that can use either or both. The federal government has pledged to operate 5,000 methanol-fueled vehicles by 1990.

Quote Of The Month

"Nicaragua could be a test case. It is, in fact, the logical scenario where the United States could win by helping Nicaraguans help themselves. You have everything on your side. You have geography, you have the people, you have the insurgency, you have the neighbors willing to help, you have the right conditions. Now is the time, and Nicaragua is the place where America can win against the Soviets."

Ernesto Palazio
Nicaraguan Democratic Resistance

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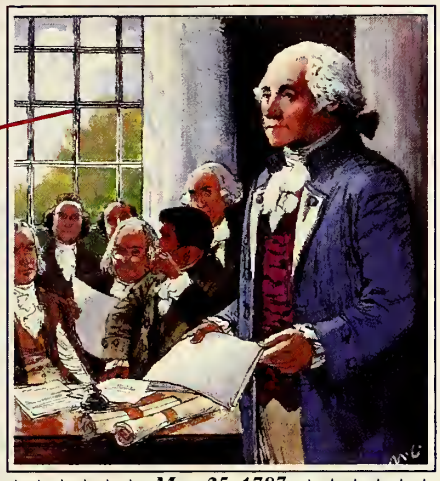

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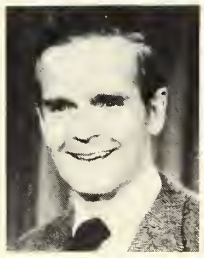
SHOULD THE FAIRNESS DOCTRINE BE REPEALED BY CONGRESS?

Sen. William Proxmire, D-Wis.



YES

I am in favor of repealing the Fairness Doctrine and have, since 1975, introduced legislation giving the people of the United States increased First Amendment benefits by abolishing the Fairness Doctrine.

The Fairness Doctrine represents government control of a part of the free press; therefore, it is unconstitutional. It violates the First Amendment's guarantee of freedom of the press.

This kind of government regulation is unnecessary. Newspapers, operating without government control, have improved vastly in fairness and objectivity over the years. Broadcasters deserve the same opportunity to be free.

Denying broadcasters their First Amendment rights is self-defeating. The Fairness Doctrine does not stimulate the free expression of diverse ideas. Rather, it promotes the sameness of ideas. Stations avoid airing controversial issues because they fear a challenge to their license renewal or expensive litigation resulting from a fairness complaint.

Government controls such as the Fairness Doctrine are dangerous. Letting government be the final arbiter of fairness confers immense power. This is especially true when the same government decides who will be granted a broadcast license.

Finally, those who favor continuing government regulation of the broadcast media through the Fairness Doctrine and other controls rely on an argument that is fast becoming obsolete: the so-called scarcity rationale.

In almost every city in America, regardless of size, there are more television signals available than daily newspapers. If radio stations are counted, as they must be, general-audience broadcasting stations far outnumber general-circulation newspapers. Moreover, economic pressures make it nearly impossible to establish a daily newspaper in a community where one already exists.

Freedom of the press is for the benefit of all Americans. If television and radio—the most popular disseminators of news and opinion—continue to be tied down by government controls such as the Fairness Doctrine, the people of our nation will continue to be the losers. We need to change this situation by giving fuller meaning to our First Amendment guarantee of freedom of the press. Repeal of the Fairness Doctrine will help lead the way. □

Rep. Edward J. Markey, D-Mass.

NO

Recently, the FCC arrested some intrepid adventurers in their boat off the shores of New York City for broadcasting on the radio waves without a license. Broadcasting without a license is illegal, and it should be, for otherwise our radio and television signals would be so cluttered that nothing would come through.

Not everyone can get a broadcast license. Broadcast frequencies are a scarce commodity because air space is so limited. And in today's America, a broadcast license can be a license to print money—many broadcasters are making enormous profits.

In exchange for granting broadcasters the privilege and the power of controlling access to millions of U.S. citizens using a broadcast frequency, the government asks broadcasters to fulfill two simple conditions for the sake of the public welfare. First, broadcasters must devote reasonable attention to the coverage of controversial issues of public importance; and second, broadcasters must provide a reasonable opportunity for the expression of opposing views on these controversial issues. The FCC has the power to revoke a license if it determines that the broadcaster is not making efforts to fulfill these conditions. This is the Fairness Doctrine.

For 50 years, this nation has benefited from a free and unfettered debate on television and radio because of the Fairness Doctrine. Now, the administration and its FCC have abolished the Fairness Doctrine from their code of rules because they claim that it infringes on broadcasters' freedom.

Without the Fairness Doctrine, you no longer have to be fair to get a broadcast license—you only have to be rich. Without the Fairness Doctrine, Americans will have no guarantee that extremists, bigots, zealots, anti-Semites, racists or ideologues will not come to dominate a local radio or TV station. Without the Fairness Doctrine, TV stations can use scarce public air space to broadcast game-show fluff, without any mention of the important issues of the day.

The U.S. Congress overwhelmingly supports preserving the Fairness Doctrine, as demonstrated by recent votes of 302-102 in the House of Representatives and 59-11 in the Senate. The President vetoed the Fairness Doctrine, but I am confident that reason and fairness will win and that the Fairness Doctrine will once again become the law of the land. □

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WHEN IS YOUR HEART IN TROUBLE?

About 500,000 Americans die of heart attacks each year. Many could survive if they recognize the symptoms and seek prompt treatment.

By Edward Edelson

LEONARD Goldstein, a 69-year-old Manhattan businessman, was at his desk talking on the phone one morning last August when he felt "a peculiar sensation" in his left arm. He called his doctor immediately—an act that probably saved his life. Goldstein knew there was something threatening about the feeling in his arm. After an electrocardiogram, his doctor confirmed his suspicion: Goldstein was having a heart attack. Carrying his electrocardiogram with him, he went to New York University Medical Center, where cardiologists were waiting.

"In two minutes I was stark naked on the table and they had a needle in my left arm," said Goldstein. "It was a miracle they acted so fast."

What the doctors injected was a new chemical that dissolves blood clots that cause most heart attacks. The treatment was successful. Goldstein was soon back on his feet and a checkup a few months later showed that the damage to his heart muscle was practically nil.

That kind of story—a person pulled back from what once was major heart damage or even death—is being told with increasing frequency in medical centers across the country. Armed with weapons provided by modern biomedical technology, cardiologists have changed their whole philosophy about treatment in the minutes and hours that follow a heart attack.

The major weapons doctors use to stop a heart attack are thrombolytic — clot-dissolving — drugs. One of them, streptokinase, already is in wide use. A second, believed to be more effective, with fewer side effects, is TPA, tissue plasminogen activator, which is awaiting approval by the Food and Drug Administration. Cardiologists also use other drugs to relieve the burden on the wounded heart and a new technique called balloon angioplasty to open up heart arteries narrowed by fatty deposits and clots. In some cases, they will do emergency coronary bypass surgery.

These techniques have enormous potential. It's estimated that widespread use of clot-dissolving treatment could save up to 25,000 of the 500,000 Americans who die of heart attacks annually. But there's a catch: those lives will be saved only if vulnerable Americans learn to recognize the symptoms of a heart attack and take immediate action to get medical help.

"Studies show that there is no benefit in thrombolytic therapy six hours after the onset of symptoms," said Dr. Jeffrey Borer, a cardiologist at New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center. "But the greatest benefits come if therapy is started within three hours, and the results are most dramatic if it is started within one hour of onset."

The most convincing evidence of all was an Italian study that compared streptokinase therapy against ordinary care in 12,000 patients. The death rate in the first three weeks was 26 percent lower in those who got streptokinase less than three hours after symptoms began and 46 percent lower when treatment started within one hour.

THERE are two major problems in trying to extend those results to most American heart-attack patients. One is that many people don't know how to recognize the symptoms of a heart attack. The second is that even when people suspect they're having a heart attack, they often are reluc-

Please turn to page 60

THIS ARTICLE CONTAINS MEDICAL INFORMATION AND ADVICE. ALTHOUGH THE INFORMATION IS BELIEVED TO BE ACCURATE, YOU SHOULD CONSULT YOUR PHYSICIAN FOR MEDICAL ADVICE CONCERNING YOUR PARTICULAR CONDITION.

Edward Edelson, a science writer for a large metropolitan newspaper, specializes in science and medicine.

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What's Mine Is Mine; What's Yours Is Negotiable

By Amb. Edward L. Rowny

THERE is a great difference between what Soviet leaders say in public about arms control and the instructions they give their negotiators. For public consumption, the Soviets profess they are flexible. But they are anything but flexible at the negotiation table.

The reason for this approach is clear. Where the Soviets see splits in American public opinion on arms control, they see the possibility of exploiting them to their benefit. This fact underscores the point President Reagan made in his State of the Union speech when he said that certain proposals circulating in Congress would have the same effect as enacting the Soviet arms negotiating position into American law.

The Soviets seldom negotiate in a spirit of problem solving. Those of us who have negotiated with them have come to understand that. Where we would like to work out solutions, the Soviets would rather compete.

Seldom do the Soviets negotiate in a spirit of give and take. We make concessions as a sign of good will in hopes that they will be reciprocated. The Soviets regard such concessions as the mark of weakness. They respect only strength. Alien as it should seem to our own values, they negotiate according to the motto, *"What's mine is mine, and what's yours is negotiable."*

Ambassador Edward L. Rowny is Special Adviser to the President and the Secretary of State for Arms Control Matters.

DOWNING-WOODFIN CAMP & ASSOCIATES

MILES APART—***While the United States regards concessions as goodwill gestures, the Soviets see them as signs of weakness.***

Americans without the experience of direct negotiation with the Soviets tend to believe that the sheer weight of logic will lead both us and the Soviets toward mutually beneficial agreements. This tendency is understandable; it is part of our heritage. The Soviets often see no need to resort to logic, especially in the early stage of negotiations. Mere assertions and endless repetitions of these assertions are what confront the American negotiator.

Soviet negotiators study our democratic system and they get to know its strengths and weaknesses and how to exploit them. General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev has been particularly adept at using his experts in American studies to formulate this arms-control, public-diplomacy strategy. Because they recognize the strength of commitment we have to our ideals, the Soviets know too well that our pluralistic society is susceptible to external influence—and sometimes outright manipulation—for their tactical gain. They especially like to appeal to our notions of good will and reciprocity through our news media.

Today, Western observers are giving much attention to Gorbachev's pursuit of *glasnost*. One recent step in this campaign was the release from internal exile of the eminent human rights champion Andrei Sakharov. Repression of free expression in the arts and literature is being loosened a bit. The Soviet press has reported with unusual candor accidents and incidents of internal disorder. Beneath all this, Gorbachev is promoting a cadre of younger and ostensibly more efficient leaders to manage the Soviet Union's all-powerful state.

In the human rights area, I think it most important that we not let scanty evidence lead to hasty conclusions about the "new openness." Experience gives us every reason to believe that, despite the *glasnost* phenomenon, the Soviet leadership has not changed its motives. As Richard Schifter, Assistant Secretary of State for Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs, said in Chicago recently, the Soviets never make governmental decisions on the basis of softheartedness or precepts of morality; these decisions always are based on cold calculation as to what is in the best interest of the Soviet state. Consider, for instance, the economic calculus: Inasmuch as Gorbachev's new campaign may improve the Soviet Union's public relations image in democratic countries in the West, this may help Moscow persuade Western governments to be more forthcoming with technology transfers and terms of credit.

Actions such as the recent release of 140 "prisoners of conscience" have a humanitarian effect on the prisoners and their families, but sadly there is no

evidence of change in the Soviet system. These prisoners, it should be noted, were released only on condition that they admit that they had committed crimes and promise not to engage in any future "anti-Soviet" activities. The KGB remains in a central position of power, and freedoms now granted selectively to certain people can be withdrawn any time at the whim or design of the secret police. Permission to emigrate continues to be granted only rarely, abuse of psychiatry for purposes of political repression continues, and persecution of religious groups actually is intensifying. No moves have been made to dismantle the sprawling Gulag system, which continues to hold thousands of prisoners of conscience.

THE Soviets not only are violating American and Western norms of human rights, but also are violating the politically binding provisions of the Helsinki Final Act. These violations naturally have important implications for international security, including arms control. Sakharov has described these implications with great insight: "As long as a country has no civil liberty, no freedom of information, no independent press," he said, "then there exists no effective body of public opinion to control the conduct of the government and its functionaries. Such a situation is not just a misfortune for the citizens unprotected against tyranny and lawlessness; it is a menace to international security."

In other words, human rights is not merely an internal matter; it affects us all.

Alexander Hamilton wrote in *The Federalist No. 1:* "... it seems to have been reserved to the people of this country, by their conduct and example, to decide the important question, whether societies of men are really capable or not of establishing good government from reflection and choice, or whether they are forever destined to depend for their political constitutions on accident and force."

In our world today, there is no safety in wishful thinking. There is no safety in facile mirror-imaging, which equates the Soviets' political system to ours. Above all, there is no future worthy of our tradition in the notion that mere survival ought to be our ultimate value. We should remember William Faulkner's exhortation that our aim must be not that man merely survive, but that he prevail. □

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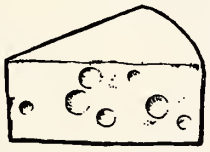

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TIME OF APPRAISAL

By Phyllis Zauner

Some resist it, others welcome it. Middle age can be depressing or refreshing. It all depends on you.

THE TERM "middle age" conjures up a host of unflattering images—loss of hair, gain in weight and dimming of physical powers. It rings of "end-of-the-party" and calls up strains of "September Song." It can be an emotionally tumultuous transition period characterized by inner struggle before one becomes resigned to leaving the Pepsi generation behind forever.

That's the down side of middle age. On the up side, it's the best of times in many ways. Middle age, many people say, is when life really begins. Pressed by the sense of time running out, some people respond by taking risks — they shed old patterns and look for new, more satisfying ones.

Perhaps women fare better than men in these middle years. They may indeed suffer their own set of problems, both physical and psychological, but the empty nest represents for many an open door that enables them to explore new and exciting vistas.

For men, middle age can sometimes be shattering.

At some point in middle age nearly every man feels compelled to take inventory, carefully weighing what he's achieved against what he thought he'd achieve and what still may be possible. "Who am I, really?" "What's important to me? What do I want to do with the rest of my life?" Those who have been highly motivated and have succeeded find themselves depressed and disillusioned that success isn't everything. Those who haven't made it may be depressed at the realization that this is as far as they'll go.

Sometimes they do what they formerly thought of as unthinkable — they leave their wives or their jobs, start an entrepreneurship or simply sail off into the sunset.

Rarely does anyone reach middle age believing or wanting the same things he did at 20. The predominant characteristic of middle age is re-evaluation.

At just what point middle age occurs, no one seems to know for sure. In 1968, when the largest age group was 19, middle age was anybody who didn't wear love beads and dig the Beatles. More recently, a study quoted in *Business Week* predicted that by 1990 middle age will be 60 to 75. For now, those 40 to 60 are considered halfway through the course, with possibly more behind than ahead.

Today's middle-aged man grew up with a simple formula: get an education, a good job, a nice house in the suburbs, an appropriate wife and a couple of children. He was led to believe he could have it all by the time he was 35.

His definition of himself was his work. Being successful was the test of his manhood. If the game was played cleverly, job advancement and power over other men would be his reward. But as he reached middle age, he found fewer possibilities for advancement. The steps of the success formula were followed, but they did not bring happiness.

He began to think of chucking it all, making some radical change into a new lifestyle that would allow him to make more decisions on his own.

Eminent Yale psychologist Daniel Levinson construed that fantasy to be a predictable aspect of middle-age upheaval. "This potentially explosive assertion of self can blow the man right into a second career," he said.

Those who have moved into second careers confirm Levinson's theory of "being your own man." Said a computer salesman who, at 45, left IBM and got into the restaurant business: "I was just a cog in a large organization. I looked at the people who were working for retirement and realized they had no vitality. I didn't want to be like them."

WOLFE/APERTURE PHOTO BANK

NEW HEIGHTS—***Described as two-thirds of the way up the mountain of life, middle age offers ample time to climb to new heights of achievement.***

Phyllis Zauner, a frequent contributor to this magazine and author of more than 400 articles, writes on social issues in America.

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Harvard psychoanalytic theorist Erik Erikson has labeled the two ways people respond to the challenge of the middle years as "generativity" and "stagnation." The stagnator says, "I'm trapped, my life is boring, and I can't do much about it," and moves on to the next stage with a sense of resignation. The generator seizes opportunities and creates change, however painful the process may be.

Paul is a generator. When his kids grew up and left home, he said, "I did the one thing I thought was impossible. I left my wife after 23 years in a miserable marriage." Two years later he left his dead-end executive job as well. "At 44, I felt that everything was now or never, and I realized I didn't have to be unhappy. But it was a very guilt-filled time. God knows I cried a lot."

For Paul, things worked out well. He borrowed money and started a successful business putting cartoon characters on kids' clothing. He has a new wife, and now that the storm is over he feels he did the right thing.

Not every middle-age decision is so gut-wrenching. But sociologists say they believe that few escape the introspection that comes with life's middle years. It might help if men could talk to someone else about this experience, but men do not often talk to one another about these things.

Meanwhile, the wife finds herself aging and feeling devalued. She thinks of going to work or to school. If she finds a career, she pursues it with zeal. And so many couples discover that they are out of sync with each other. He's winding down, she's gearing up. To survive this critical time, the marriage must often be regenerated to accommodate the different people the partners have become.

Dr. William Nolen, a Minnesota physician, said his own midlife crisis almost cost him his wife, his family, his profession—even his life.

"It started just after my 50th birthday," he revealed in his book *Crisis Time*. "I had six children, a busy surgical practice and good health. But I found myself waking at night worrying about finances and about my patients. I was drinking too much, taking Valium for my sleeplessness. Then one day I overdosed, and that scared me."

Nolen identified five middle-age problems, and how to deal with them:

Alcohol. Find some activity to fill the time from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. If you can't avoid drinking at parties, just don't go. Odds are you won't miss much.

'But for many the empty nest represents an open door that enables them to explore new and exciting vistas.'

The New Woman. The man in crisis thinks maybe an affair would perk up his sagging sex life and bring back the potency he knew at 20. In real life, lovemaking takes up at most 5/112ths of the average waking week. It's crazy to make a major life change dependent on that fraction of time.

Insomnia. Physical exercise helps. So does a light snack at bedtime. Most important, remind yourself at bedtime that no matter how little sleep you get, you're going to be fine the next day.

Mortality. It's true the body does begin to run down. The aging process can't be stopped. But instead of dwelling on thoughts of death and disability, concentrate on getting as much enjoyment as possible out of every day.

Job Dissatisfaction. Don't jump into anything on impulse. Go over all the negative and positive results, and get some input from your wife. If you decide to make a change, get organized and do it. Don't become obsessed with second guesses or regrets.

On the whole, considering the bad press that middle age receives, there are really joys to balance the discomforts. If life has been kind, leaving you with no serious illnesses or permanent disappointments, you begin to get the feeling you are in control. Setbacks are easier to take; victories are no less pleasant, but you know that the sweet taste they bring does not last long. Baggier and saggier though your skin may grow, you feel more comfortable in it. Things that used to outrage you can now sometimes amuse you. You do not expect so much from other people, or from yourself. You care less about what other people think of you. Somewhere during middle age you come to grips with your strengths and your weaknesses.

Fifty is roughly two-thirds up the mountain. Not a bad place to view those years behind you, as well as those years still before you. ☐

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Is The Monroe Doctrine Relevant?

Some say the Monroe Doctrine died when Castro's Soviet-backed regime enslaved Cuba. Others argue it's just as valid today as it ever was.

By Dr. Howard J. Wiarda

NO FRIEND or foe should have any doubts about the relevance and importance of the Monroe Doctrine as the United States searches for a clear-cut policy toward Central America.

The Monroe Doctrine has been criticized in recent years as being passé or even dead. Nothing could be further from the truth. Naturally, any doctrine that is 164 years old needs to be updated and revised — rather like that remarkable document, the U.S. Constitution, amended and reinterpreted in certain instances over the years, but still the mainstay of American government.

Indeed, times have changed since President James Monroe enunciated the doctrine in 1823 when the United States, small and weak by the standards of the major powers of the day, sought to exclude Europe from the Western Hemisphere and, at the same time, keep the United States out of European wars and entanglements.

The Monroe Doctrine was closely bound to American growth and expansion in the 19th century. Manifest destiny, the expansion westward and the need to define our geographical boundaries from ocean to ocean were all closely associated with the doctrine.

As the United States emerged as a major industrial and world power toward the end of the 19th century, the Monroe Doctrine began to acquire teeth. It was used not only to exclude other powers — the Soviet Union, Spain, France and Britain — from the hemisphere, but also to prevent our rivals from establishing bases either to subvert or attack the United States, or to take advantage of the region's perceived instability. During World Wars I and II, the doctrine served to prevent German beachheads in the Western Hemisphere. Since World War II and the onset of the Cold War, it has been used to exclude the Soviet Union from Latin America.

BETTMANN ARCHIVE

HEMISPHERIC SHIELD — ***Unlike today, when President James Monroe penned his doctrine, the United States lacked the military strength to back it up.***

Because some Latin American nations resented its unilateral nature, the Monroe Doctrine was down-played after World War II and all but superseded as an instrument of foreign policy by the Rio Treaty and the Organization of American States — both advocating a multilateral stance to the defense of the hemisphere rather than the unilateral approach in the Monroe Doctrine.

In recent years, however, the OAS has declined in prestige and stature; its inaction in the Falkland-Malvinas crisis of 1982 and its inability to resolve Central American crises have further undermined its position. Nor has the Rio Treaty, a mutual defense pact, proved effective against aggression. Even newer ad hoc initiatives such as Contadora, created to solve the Central American imbroglio, and Cartagena, meant to facilitate the debt problem — both of which exclude the United States — have not served as practical substitutes.

In the meantime, the realities of inter-American relations also have changed. The United States is a more cautious nation since Vietnam and is reluctant to get deeply involved in the internal affairs of Latin American nations, especially in a military way. Latin America has become more nationalistic and independent and some of the nations — Argentina, Brazil, Cuba and Mexico — have emerged as middle-level powers. Europeans have acquired a new and stronger presence in Latin America today, and Japanese and Soviet Union influences have been growing rapidly in the hemisphere. New issues — the drug traffic, immigration, debt and others — have rendered the old system of inter-American relations obsolete.

In this present time of turmoil and change, there has been a renewed awareness of the original principles of the Monroe Doctrine. The economic depression of Latin America has forced many nations of that region to accept that their economies are — and must be — tied inexorably to U.S. fortunes. The hostility toward the Soviet Union and Marxism-Leninism is being reinforced by each new crisis. There is an increasing consensus among nations of the Americas that no foreign power has a right to intervene in this hemisphere.

The Monroe Doctrine needs to be viewed from the perspective of modern realities — to incorporate a broader U.S. strategic security that includes social, economic and military aid to Latin America, and to actively promote the values of human rights and democratic reform. The doctrine must reflect a genuine and effective multilateral dimension that revises and sustains an inter-American partnership.

On that basis, the Monroe Doctrine can faithfully serve our interests. □

Dr. Howard J. Wiarda, author of numerous books and articles on Latin America, Southern Europe, the Third World, and U.S. foreign policy, is a resident scholar and director of the Center for Hemispheric Studies at the American Enterprise Institute, Washington, D.C.

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UNANIMOUS CHOICE

JOHN P. "JAKE" COMER
Elected National Commander

I GET hot under the collar when people look at veterans' organizations as 'gimme' organizations," said John P. "Jake" Comer, newly elected National Commander of The American Legion.

Responding to a recent newspaper editorial that described the Legion and other veterans' organizations as "gimme" groups, Comer said, "We went off to serve the country and then we returned. Although veterans' benefits were earned and richly deserved, we just didn't take them and let it end at that. We went back into our communities and formed Legion posts and raised millions of dollars for the children and youths of America. And that's just one of the ways we pay back a grateful nation in return for what it gave us. Where's the 'gimme' in that?"

With his family at his side, Comer told the 3,200 delegates at the 69th National Convention in San Antonio about the goals he has set for himself and the Legion during his year of stewardship as National Commander.

"During the next year, the Legion, Auxiliary, Sons of The American Legion and the Eight and Forty will work together as a family and raise $1 million for the Child Welfare Foundation," Comer said. Increased funding for the foundation will enable the organization to make more grants available for programs such as the March of Dimes and Reye's Syndrome research, and to continue funding programs for missing and abused children.

"Children do not make up 100 percent of our population, but they sure make up 100 percent of our future," Comer said. "Anything that we invest in the young people of this nation is an investment in America's future. And the Legion is going to increase its investment by $1 million, and we'll do it together."

One of the best ways to support the million-dollar campaign, Comer said, will be through the Regional Action Team (RAT) program. RAT members are responsible for raising funds within their respective states. "Anyone who contributes at least $25 to the Child Welfare Foundation gets a special pin. I wear one myself," Comer said.

WHILE Comer talked at length about youth-related programs, he also emphasized his deep concern about the erosion of veterans' benefits. "It's about time that veterans wake up and realize that these benefits are slowly being drained from them. Unless we tell our elected representatives that we demand an end to these insidious cuts, we'll have no one but ourselves to blame if fiscal cutbacks continue.

"We saw what happened last year after the means test and third-party reimbursement went into effect," he said. "If they separate us according to our income, then they separate us as veterans. This puts many of our veterans in a welfare-controlled category, and that we oppose."

> ' IT'S ABOUT *time all of us wake up and realize that veterans' benefits are slowly being drained away from us.*'

Comer said that over the past decade, the total VA budget for benefits and entitlements has dropped from 9 percent to less than 3 percent of the national budget. "Veterans have paid more than their fair share in these cuts," he said.

Comer also challenged the delegates and Legionnaires across the nation to join him in another goal, one designed to further strengthen the Legion family. "We're going to reach 3 million members this year, but it will take a focused effort from all of us. Last year we reached a 37-year high and, with a little more push and grit, we'll hit the 3-million mark."

An Air Force communications specialist during the Korean War, Comer is the second Legionnaire from Massachusetts to serve as National Commander. He has held a variety of offices since joining the Legion 24 years ago at Thomas J. Roberts Post 78, West Roxbury, Mass., where he was awarded a life membership for outstanding service to the organization, his fellow veterans and his community. But during his rise from bluecap to NECman, he has remained steadfast to a principle that long has been the backbone of the Legion.

"A strong commitment to the local community is what makes the Legion a dynamic and vibrant force," Comer said. "It prevails in our posts, departments and at the national level as well. Some of our best work is with those who are less fortunate."

Comer practices what he preaches when it comes to helping his neighbors. He is a member of the Massachusetts Hospital School for Handicapped Children and has helped raise more than $3 million for underprivileged children in his state through the Horizons For Youth program. Comer began the program in

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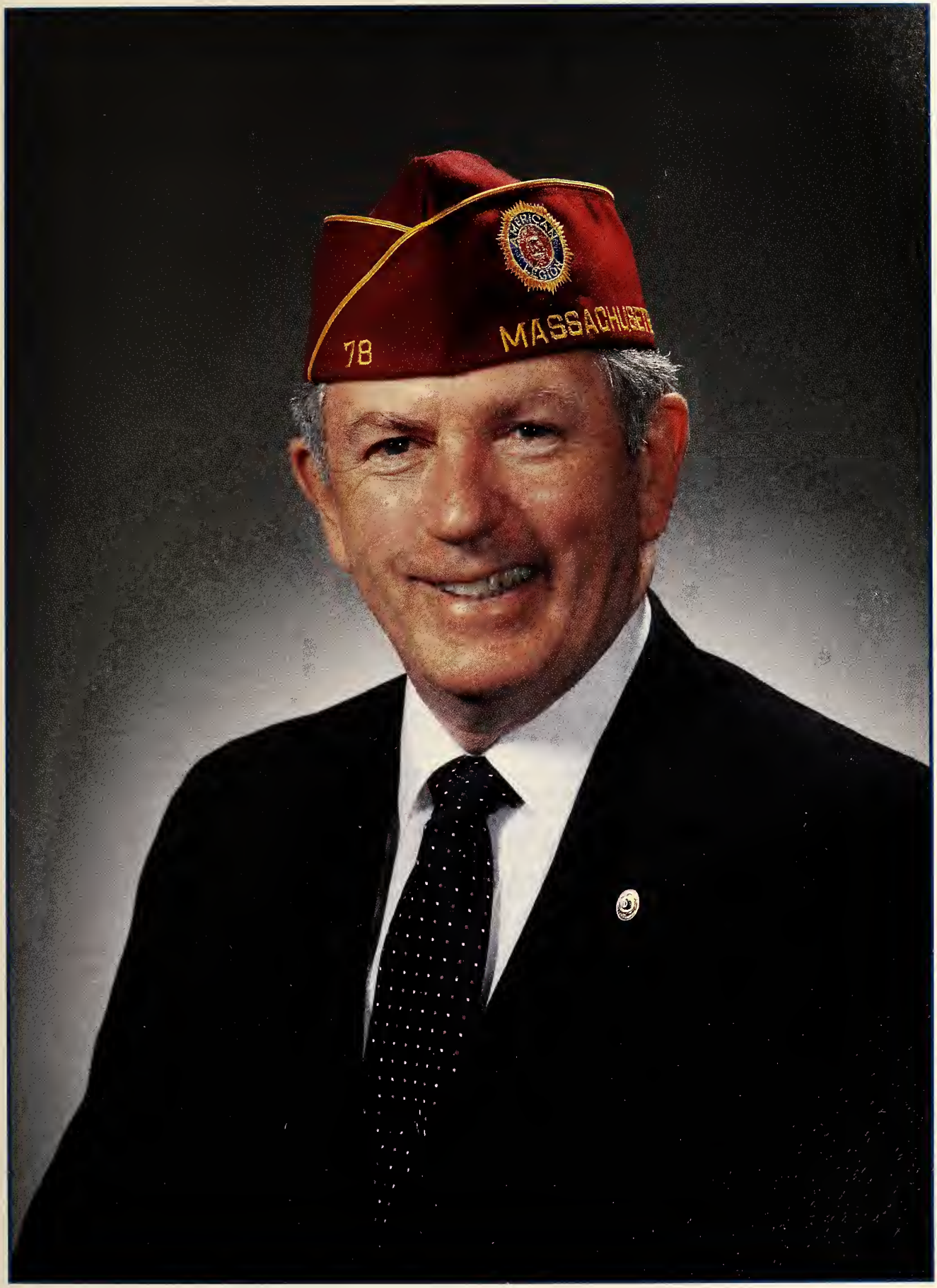
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MASSACHUSET
AMERICAN LEGION

SEARCHING FOR MORAL RESOLVE

By Dr. William Ratliff

COMMUNISM is an ideology of conflict and expansion. It was when Marx wrote the *Communist Manifesto* in 1848; it is today as exemplified in Afghanistan and Central America. And if history has anything to teach us, it is that we can expect more of the same in the future.

Two of the most important lessons of history are:

- Communism is inherently expansionist.
- No evidence exists that communism will bring about the utopia it promises. In fact, there is considerable evidence to the contrary.

These lessons are critically important to Americans today, and are seen with particular clarity in Central America where communist movements undermine U.S. allies and, step by step, threaten the security of the United States.

Historically, communist countries have been characterized by political suppression of the majority by a new minority ruling class—the Communist Party—which often achieves its objectives through unrestrained brutality, such as the Soviet Union under Stalin, China under Mao, and Cambodia under Pol Pot. Under these governments is a systematic effort to crush the human spirit, leading to an impoverishment of life and relationships, and a lack of creativity in all areas of thought and action. Another characteristic of communist countries is gross economic incompetence and the redistribution of increasing poverty.

What communists profess and practice most diligently is the use of political, social and economic power. Lenin was history's master powermonger. In his 1902 book, *What Is To Be Done?*, he developed the concept of the professional revolutionary and later honed the organizational, psychological and other techniques that have instructed communists ever since. Since World War II, vanguards using these techniques have seized power in almost two dozen countries around the world.

POWERMONGER — ***Lenin masterminded the professional revolutionary, which helped the Soviets overtake two dozen countries since 1945.***

ONE of the critical communist targets today is Central America. The Sandinista vanguard that took Nicaragua in 1979 betrayed its pledge to establish a democratic government and cemented ties to Cuba and the Soviet Union. Its betrayal sparked an anti-communist response in the form of the Contra movement.

All Central American countries have political, economic and social weaknesses that, in widely varying degrees, invite unrest; and all have non-communist critics of U.S. policies that in the past often have been shortsighted and counterproductive. But communists try, sometimes very successfully, to manipulate these problems and critics for their own ends. Since 1979, the Cuban and Nicaraguan governments have worked with indigenous revolutionaries to promote guerrilla wars, which have left tens of thousands dead, hundreds of thousands homeless and national economies wrecked.

But these are not simply civil wars. As the Salvadoran guerrilla radio stated in 1983, the conflicts are regional as well. They are aimed at governments allied to the United States and, in the end, are intended to drive the United States from the region.

The international linkage is obvious: The United States and the Soviet Union have been enemies for most of the century; Cuba became an ally of the Soviet Union in the early 1960s and brought the East-West conflict into the Western Hemisphere. The Sandinista movement, formed in 1961 in emulation of Castro's guerrillas, has been linked to Cuba ever since, and in 1979 used its alliances to import the East-West conflict to Central America.

The Soviets give more economic aid to Cuba and Nicaragua than to the rest of the world combined, for obvious reasons. These two create tensions and strategic challenges for the United States in what Soviet analysts call America's "strategic rear," thus diverting Washington's attention from other parts of the world that are more strategically important to the Soviet Union.

But the Soviet bloc has even more to gain from these conflicts. These protracted, often dirty, little wars tax the understanding and patience of most Americans. Often acrimonious, domestic debates over how the United States should respond to these conflicts have been stirred up by sophisticated Soviet-bloc propaganda techniques, further confusing Americans, especially young people, and gravely weakening U.S. leaders and institutions.

If Americans are ever to repel this communist challenge, they must build an informed consensus in the United States and act with renewed political and moral resolve. □

Dr. William Ratliff, author, lecturer and journalist, is a senior research fellow and scholar/curator of the Latin American Collection at the Hoover Institute, Stanford University.

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CENTRAL AMERICA

THE CRISIS NEXT DOOR

AS YOUR new National Commander, I have taken the rather unusual step of bringing to you a special message concerning an issue of vital importance to the long-range security of this nation. In the pages that follow you will find a wealth of information on Central America, and I urge you to give it your most thoughtful attention.

I have no doubt you have read and heard much about Central America and, in particular, Nicaragua in the past few months. What you have heard may have confused or alarmed you. It may even have made you a little tired of it all. But the American people can no longer afford the luxury of confusion, alarm or boredom concerning a region so crucial to our national security.

That became apparent to Past Nat'l Cmdr. James P. Dean early in his year as commander, and it quickly became apparent to me during my travels as a candidate and as an NECman. I am pleased to have had a role in developing the recommendations of the newly formed Policy Coordination and Action Group, and I am grateful to Dean and to the NEC for creating that special group.

The Policy Coordination and Action Group was formed to study foreign and domestic developments that potentially could affect our national security. It is appropriate that the group's attention immediately focused on Central America. Based on his visits to Central America during his administration, Dean insisted that The American Legion take the lead in providing accurate information on the region and in formulating a comprehensive, bipartisan policy for Central America that would protect the interests of this nation. That is the essence of the recommendations included in the PCAG report reprinted in this issue of THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE.

Nat'l Cmdr. John P. "Jake" Comer

As an observer representing the NEC, I participated in the deliberations of PCAG in Washington, and later in the study missions sent to Nicaragua for a firsthand look at the situation there. I remain impressed with the ability of The American Legion to call for, and receive, the kind of direct assistance and briefings that the PCAG received from such diverse officials as the Sandinista ambassador to the United States, United Nicaraguan Opposition representative Ernesto Palazio (whose interview appears in this special section), and a variety of key defense and government officials. Armed with the perspective from Washington, I traveled to Nicaragua to see, not only for myself, but also for you, how that view compares with the reality of life in Central America. What I and other members of the study missions learned in the nations that are now striving for democracy is encouraging. What I learned in Nicaragua is frightening.

Nicaragua lies dangerously close to the heartland of America. It is only hours away from any major airport in this country; you and your family could drive there in a day or so. All Americans must understand and deal with the Soviet Union's concentrated effort to establish a base for communist expansion throughout Central America—a base from which to uproot democracies there, divert U.S. strategic and military resources, and threaten our domestic security. The American Legion is more than concerned, and it should be.

Nicaragua is led by men who were inspired, educated and heavily influenced by the more than one-quarter century of communist rule in Cuba. They take their cues from the Soviet Union, and the communist objective—world domination—is pursued with fervor in Nicaragua. It won't end there.

The American Legion saw the threat coming many years ago, during the debates over the Panama Canal. Our organization was in the forefront of the fight against relinquishing the canal, and over the years has maintained a strong interest in the region. Often, it was a lonely battle. Throughout it all, we have pressed for the comprehensive bipartisan policy toward the region that now is imperative.

I KNOW I speak for all of you when I say that Past Nat'l Cmdr. Dean deserves the deepest appreciation for his courage and commitment in bringing the issue of Central America to the American people. It was my privilege to be with him as he personally presented the findings and recommendations of the PCAG to President Reagan. The President was the first to receive the report of PCAG, which you have in your hand today and which was later made available to the delegates to the 69th National Convention in San Antonio.

However, as you read this, there are forces at work both in this country and

OFF THE PRESS—*Comer and Dean meet President Reagan to present him with a copy of the PCAG report.*

in Central America to forge a peace plan for the region, to establish a policy for this nation to pursue. What the PCAG has proposed was followed by the President's own plan and subsequently by an agreement among the leaders of the Central American nations. The outcome of peace initiatives remains uncertain, but one thing is clear: Those developments have done very little to ease the confusion and appease the American people.

The American Legion will not accept any accommodation for the region that does not simultaneously ban further Soviet aid to Nicaragua and ensure the restoration of democratic processes for the beleaguered people of Nicaragua. Moreover, The American Legion recommendations make it clear that aid to the Nicaraguan freedom fighters (the Contras) must not be halted until the freedoms for which they are fighting are assured. Contra aid is not, and should not be, the cornerstone of a total policy for the region, even though it is a significant part of an overall strategy to prevent the Nicaraguan communists from exporting their revolution to their democratic neighbors. The American Legion must see to it that the U.S. policy toward the region is so grounded.

A STRONG commitment to the local community makes the Legion a dynamic and vibrant force.

You are The American Legion. Those of us who are entrusted with the leadership of the organization can do only so much. We can gather and analyze the information, and we can make recommendations. It is up to you, the nearly 4 million men and women of the Legion and Auxiliary, to convert our recommendations into national policy. As your National Commander, I am asking you to join with me in finishing this most important work started by Dean. For my part, I can assure you that the issue will remain a priority during my year of serving you.

It is no longer enough for The American Legion to be right on this issue. It is time now for us to be heard. The United States must forge ahead in establishing a bipartisan foreign policy to deal with the threat of further Soviet expansion into the Western Hemisphere. Arm yourselves with the facts presented in this special issue, and contact your representative in Congress to make our position clear. You must insist that your representative support continued aid to the democratic resistance in Nicaragua, support and sustain the emerging democracies of Central America, oppose Soviet bases in Nicaragua, and help implement the recommendations contained in The American Legion's PCAG report.

You have borne battles perhaps more ferocious than this in your long years of service to America. This battle is no less important, and you must prevail now as you did then. The nation is counting on you. Our message must go out, it must be heard, and it must be embraced by those who have accepted the leadership of this nation. Send them the message by letter, telephone or telegram, and do it today. □

A SEARCH FOR CONSENSUS

THE AMERICAN LEGION PROPOSES A TWO-TRACK STRATEGY FOR DEALING WITH CENTRAL AMERICA, BUT A BI-PARTISAN CONSENSUS IS ESSENTIAL.

ROBLES/J B PICTURES

ON TARGET—***Sandinista military might includes Soviet anti-aircraft weapons.***

The National Executive Committee of The American Legion formed the Policy Coordination and Action Group in May 1987. Members of the PCAG undertook a series of study missions to Central America between June 21, 1987, and July 3, 1987. What follows are the group's findings and recommendations, which were compiled during debriefings in Washington, D.C., July 9-10, 1987.

"THERE'S something rotten in Central America—and you can smell it all the way to Washington, D.C.!"

With these words, National Executive Committeeman W. D. Harrell captured the essence not only of the Policy Coordination and Action Group's assessment of the Central America crisis, but also the group's growing frustration with the U.S. Government's apparent inability or unwillingness to deal with it, a situation characterized by endless debate and partisan division.

National Commander James P. Dean concurred.

"The lack of total commitment by our government to deal with one of the most complex issues ever to face us in this hemisphere, and the absence of an effective, consistent foreign policy have created confusion here and polarized our citizens," he warned.

The PCAG, in its final report of findings gathered on site in Central America, has concluded that this inconsistent approach comes about despite the Administration having laid out, nearly three years ago, elements of a comprehensive two-track strategy for dealing with the economic, political, social and military pressures on Central America's emerging democratic institutions.

The basic track centers on supporting democracy through the Jackson Plan, recommended by the National Bipartisan Commission on Central America in 1984 and adopted by Congress in legislation known as the Central America Initiative. The plan was adopted with support of members of Congress from both sides of the aisle, but it has never been fully funded and, thus, never fully implemented. The other track focuses on supporting the Contras in their struggle for democracy in Nicaragua.

Given a total commitment backed by full funding, the two-track strategy could achieve U.S. national security goals in Central America by encouraging the growth of democracy and excluding communism from the mainland of this hemisphere.

In the absence of full application of the two-track strategy, the crisis in Central America deepens. U.S. foreign policy toward the region stagnates, freedom-loving people in Nicaragua suffer, and existing democracies stagger under the twin burdens of development and self-defense.

That's what stinks in Washington, D.C., and The American Legion is determined to see it cleaned up.

A Sandinista guard at the air terminal in Nicaragua fiddles with the grip of an automatic weapon strapped to his hip. Another guard is pawing through the luggage of the group of "gringos" clearing the customs gate. Outside the terminal, one of the group is quickly, and rudely, introduced to communism, Sandinista-style:

"I took a picture of a palm tree," said NECman W.D. "Cuz" Harrell, "and the next thing I know, a guard came running up with his rifle. He was excited and talking fast. The guy from the U.S. Embassy tried to tell him I had taken a picture of a tree. But it didn't matter to the guard, and he demanded my film. So I gave it to him."

NECman Harrell's experience with the rigid control of personal actions under a Marxist-Leninist dictatorship was a reminder of the type of conditions under which people live in Nicaragua.

SPECIAL DELIVERY—*Dean presents the President a copy of The American Legion's Policy Coordination and Action Group's special report on Central America.*

During its stay in this Central America trouble spot, the PCAG fact-finding team got a firsthand look at the economic desolation wrought by adherence to communist principles, and experienced the persistent surveillance and regimentation characteristic of a communist dictatorship.

With the consolidation of Sandinista control over Nicaragua and its looming threat to neighboring nations, there also remain grave national security implications for the United States. The Sandinistas have constructed a 13,000-foot runway near Managua, Nicaragua —a length that could easily accommodate Soviet MiG fighter jets and Bear bombers. This facility could give the Soviets easy surveillance access to western states where important military installations are located.

In addition, defense experts have turned up evidence that shows a deep-water port is being constructed on the Pacific coast of Nicaragua. Coupled with existing Soviet facilities in Cuba, the airfield and port could greatly expand the USSR's surveillance and strike capabilities against the United States.

"During the first 10 months of 1986," said Gen. Robert C. Kingston, PCAG consultant, "43 ships delivered more Soviet arms and military equipment to Nicaragua than in any previous year." Quoting defense sources, Kingston said that the shipments included six MI-24 helicopter gunships, SAM-14 anti-aircraft missiles, and large numbers of Soviet trucks and military hardware.

ARMED with that knowledge and referring to increased Sandinista troop attacks against resistance forces' camps in Honduras, National Security Chairman Roger A. Munson, remembering a recent Sandinista parade, speculated about Nicaragua's intentions. "The troops were in 225-man units, 15 rows and 15 abreast, marching in goosestep. Then came the armored personnel carriers, the artillery, the tanks and helicopter gunships. This, clearly, is not an army being built for defense."

Legionnaires, who are members of American Legion Posts in Guatemala, Costa Rica, Panama and Mexico, also met with PCAG members to express

MOVING—*Three-trip veteran to Central America, Dean prepares to board a helo; greets El Salvador President Duarte; and gets briefed by Col. Gilberto Rubio, CO of El Salvadoran Army's Fourth Brigade.*

similar concerns. "What we heard," said Nat'l Cmdr. Dean, "is that our members who live in Central America are very seriously concerned about the growing military might of the Sandinistas and the military threat they pose to peaceable nations in the region. By and large, these American citizens living in Central America support aid to the Democratic Resistance and continued aid to the emerging democracies. They are fearful of the consequences should the United States fail to take a strong and consistent stand in Central America."

The PCAG group had planned to visit the 13,000-foot airstrip at a place called Punta Huete, Nicaragua. The Nicaraguan ambassador to the United States had promised the group a tour, but his colleagues back home said they had not received any word on the trip.

"Besides," a Foreign Ministry official says, "there's nothing out there to see. Just a bit of concrete and that's it."

A Soviet Hind helicopter, complete with door guns and rockets, lifts off from the pad near Sandino International Airport, and heads north toward the hills.

U.S. policy-makers tasked with forming and implementing a coherent bipartisan foreign policy directed toward Central America have been largely unsuccessful in dealing with the possibility of another communist outpost in this hemisphere.

MAP TALK — ***Kingston (top) reveals data about Contra movements; Simon discusses with Walters "the nation's yo-yo policy of Contra support."***

POLICY — ***Comer and Harrell discuss the need for a bipartisan foreign policy in Central America; Munson says the Sandinista army is not for defense.***

How could this be?

"I submit that the answer," said Nat'l Cmdr. Dean, "lies in our belief that many U.S. citizens and some members of Congress have been persuaded by information prepared and packaged by paid representatives and lobbyists of foreign governments. It is obvious that our Congress, our media, and our citizens are being lobbied long and hard to adopt a view that, we believe, may be detrimental to the security of our nation and the well-being of our Central American neighbors.

"In the absence of protest by American citizens, our foreign policy is being slanted toward a position that advocates abandonment of the Contras, withdrawal of aid for emerging Central American democracies, and the total withdrawal of U.S. influence in Central America.

KEY RESOLUTIONS

Res. 18 — "Representatives of Foreign Governments" — Expresses concern about the undue influence exercised by former federal government officials and former members of Congress serving as lobbyists for foreign governments. Urges appropriate action to control such practices, including post-employment restrictions, prohibitions on use of non-public information concerning U.S. Government negotiating positions, restrictions on floor privileges and stronger reporting requirements. (NEC, Spring 1987)

Res. 51 — "Central America" — Supports the Jackson Plan as approved by Congress in the International Security and Development Cooperation Act of 1985 (P.L. 99-83) and urges Congress to fully fund the Jackson Plan as a matter of vital national interest. (68th National Convention)

Res. 53 — "Nicaragua" — Recommends the U.S. Government: (1) Oppose the Marxist-Leninist type government of Nicaragua being imposed on the people of Nicaragua, with a view to helping Nicaraguans replace it with one chosen by the people, through free elections, according to democratic principles; (2) Provide whatever legitimate means are necessary to achieve this end; (3) Seek to isolate the Sandinista government of Nicaragua and aid the Nicaragua freedom fighters in their struggle against tyranny, without directly committing U.S. troops to combat; (4) Invite the other free nations of the Americas to join in this effort through the Organization of American States, or individually, as a matter vital to their survival as free and independent nations. (68th National Convention)

Res. 409 — "El Salvador" — Urges the U.S. Government to provide economic aid to El Salvador and furnish increased military training and equipment as necessary to defeat the guerillas. Further urges the U.S. Government to take whatever action is necessary to redeem its pledge to defeat communist insurgency in El Salvador. (68th National Convention)

Res. 451 — "Cuba" — Recommends that the U.S. Government continue economic sanctions against Cuba; maintain control of Guantanamo Bay Naval Base; continue intelligence over-flights of Cuba; and take whatever steps are necessary to halt Cuban export of revolution to other nations in Latin America by diplomacy, economic assistance, security assistance or, as a last resort, U.S. military action. (68th National Convention)

Res. 526 — "Bipartisan Foreign Policy" — Urges the

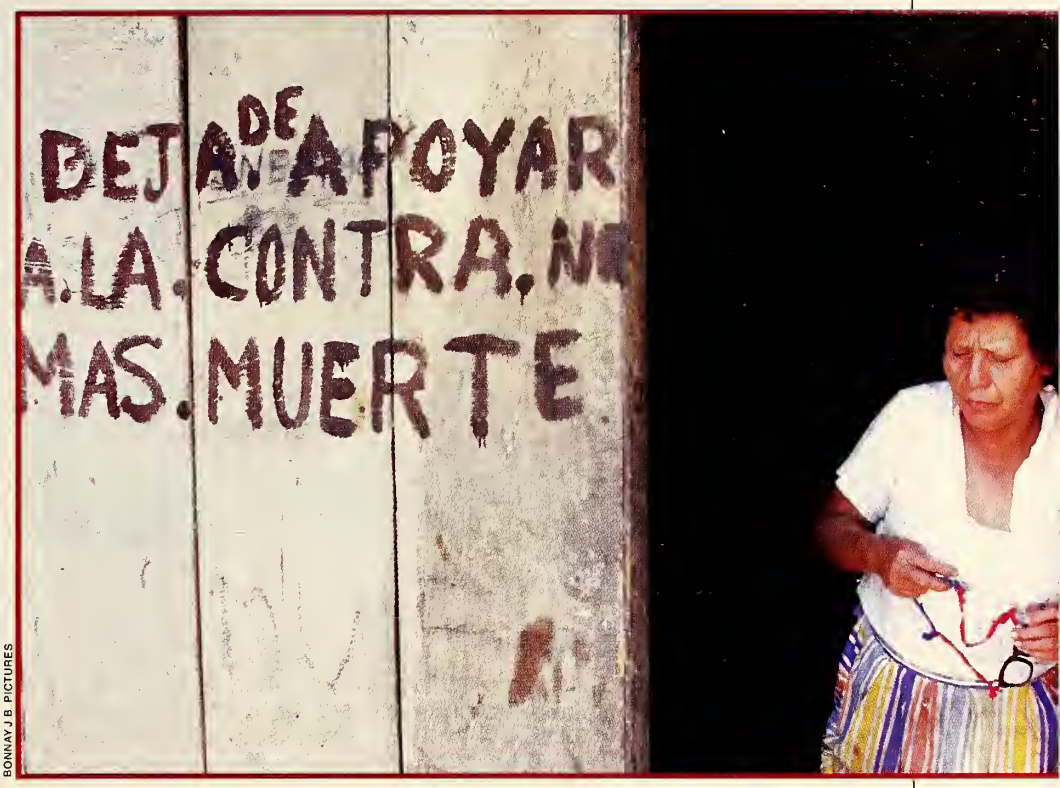
'WE'RE GIVING THE CONTRAS JUST ENOUGH TO BLEED AND DIE, BUT NOT ENOUGH TO WIN.'

"We must begin to shape a logical and consistent foreign policy," said Cmdr. Dean. "We must develop the guidance to lead us again to the forefront of the parade for freedom and democracy in the world. We cannot assume that role if we have no direction. And right now this country has no really good direction, or consensus, regarding this vital issue.

"The American Legion must plow its own ground when it comes to recommending a bipartisan foreign policy that will put this nation on a course that will secure freedom and stability in the Western Hemisphere."

Throughout its deliberations, the group emphasized repeatedly the need for a bipartisan foreign policy concerning Central America. As one member of the group declared, "This must not be a Democratic policy . . . this must not be a Republican policy . . . this must be an American policy!"

"You ask me if there is freedom of religion here in Nicaragua? There is no freedom except for those who have embraced Sandinistan doctrine. That is the 'Popular Church.' My people are free to



BONNAY J.B. PICTURES

DEATH — ***Although the sign painted on a Nicaraguan farm house warns that to help the Contras will bring death, the Contras have the people's support.***

President and the Congress to re-establish a long-term, comprehensive bipartisan consensus on foreign policy goals and methods of operations, and to restore the primacy of the President to his rightful constitutional powers as chief architect of foreign policy.

Res. 536 — "Caribbean Basin" — Urges the American people to: (1) Make those sacrifices necessary to stop communist expansionism in the Caribbean Basin; (2) Support the U.S. Government's efforts to prevent the Marxist takeover of any country in the Caribbean Basin by subversion of armed aggression and to promote free elections of governments to represent the people of those countries. Further, that the Caribbean Basin Initiative be fully implemented and expanded to permit duty-free access to the U.S. market to all Caribbean Basin products for a 12-year period, thus encouraging productive activity to promote economic growth. Additionally, recommends the United States provide economic and security assistance as needed to help develop prosperous, democratic societies in the region. Also, that the U.S. Government be urged to support increased educational exchanges between the United States and the Caribbean Basin nations at the college level and increased support for primary education to promote literacy. (68th National Convention)

Res. 537 — "Costa Rica" — Recommends that the United States provide necessary economic aid to help Costa Rica regain economic prosperity. Further recommends the United States provide any type security assistance requested by Costa Rica to defend its democratic system. (68th National Convention)

Res. 538 — "Guatemala" — Recommends that the U.S. Government continue trying to influence the Guatemalan Government to evolve toward a democratic orientation while providing improved political, economic and social conditions for the people. Further, that the U.S. Government should increase economic aid and provide military aid as necessary to help Guatemala defeat the insurgency and develop its economy. (68th National Convention)

Res. 539 — "Honduras" — Recommends that the United States should encourage development of a free, democratic and more prosperous Honduras by providing economic and military assistance and cooperation with Honduras to prevent the further spread of communist insurgency in Central America. (68th National Convention) □

'AS A FREE PEOPLE, IT IS OUR OBLIGATION TO AID THOSE SEEKING FREEDOM.'

PERSECUTION — ***"There is no religious freedom in Nicaragua," says Roman Catholic Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo to Comer, Spanogle and Harrell.***

attend services, but many do so at risk. Sandinistas often show up at services with cameras, and this places fear in people's hearts because they do not know if their photograph might some day lead to their arrest on a false charge... I am sad to tell you that some of our priests have allied themselves with the government, but what can we do?" — Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo, leader of Nicaragua's Roman Catholic Church

The fact-finding team that toured Nicaragua got firsthand confirmation of the dictatorship's suppression of personal freedoms. As an example, the state restricts religious freedom and harasses those who wish to pursue their faith — Catholic, Protestant, or Jew. The government forbids even the printing of a church bulletin or order of worship. It is not uncommon for government agents to intrude during a church service, using a video camera to record those present.

Ironically, Nicaragua claims to permit religious expression. However, a closer look at what the Marxist-Leninist nation allows as religious freedom is actually a state church. NECman John P. Comer reported to PCAG about his visit with Cardinal Bravo of the Roman Catholic Church, who told of the government's repression of the church's activities.

Religious repression in Nicaragua takes a uniquely pernicious form. Open air masses are prohibited. Church bulletins cannot be printed. Worshipers endure surveillance and harassment. Ministers and priests are summoned to hear official condemnations of their sermons—while the "Popular Church" enjoys immunity from persecution as a reward for toeing the line and enthusiastically endorsing "the theology of liberation."

The Popular Church is a state-supported church practicing Liberation Theology. It supports the Sandinistas' Marxist-Leninist philosophy and includes both Protestant and Catholic Nicaraguans.

"The Sandinistas are practicing control of the church, Catholic and Protestant alike," National Adjutant Robert W. Spanogle said. "We hear so much about priests and ministers who have been harassed for speaking out for freedom and democracy. The price of freedom always comes high, no matter where it is."

GLOSSARY

Contras (Nicaraguan Democratic Resistance) — Nicaraguan freedom fighters who seek to establish democracy in their homeland. This force of about 15,000 is operating within Nicaragua's borders.

Sandinistas — The Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) takes its name from Cesar Augusto Sandino, the organizer of a Nationalist movement within Nicaragua in the 1920s. The Sandinistas came to power following the 1979 revolution that toppled dictator Anastasio Somoza Debayle.

Contadora Process — This regional plan of resolving conflict in Central America has been supported by many Latin American countries. The United States has supported this plan only if an agreement is simultaneous, comprehensive and verifiable.

Arias Plan — This peace plan was advanced by Costa Rican President Oscar Arias and is the most recent proposal for resolving conflicts in Central America. The plan calls for disbanding the Contras and later negotiating about democratic reforms in Nicaragua. Critics have said the plan contains no guarantees that Nicaragua would actually implement democratic reforms.

Caribbean Basin Initiative — Congress approved this Administration initiative in 1983. It increases the opportunity for friendly Caribbean nations to export certain products to the United States without payment of tariffs for a 12-year period.

Jackson Plan — Proposed by the National Bipartisan Commission on Central America and named for the late Sen. Henry "Scoop" Jackson, this plan embodies recommendations that provide long-term economic and military aid to democratic nations in Central America.

FMLN — The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front is the umbrella organization that guides guerrilla

ROBLES/J B PICTURES

RECRUITS — ***Sandinista troops have increased by 65,000 in the past five years and are now 125,000 strong.***

The Sandinistas say such repression is only a temporary wartime measure and will be lifted when the Contras no longer pose a military threat. What they don't explain is how religious freedom threatens military strategy.

A pickup truck without rear wheels sits up on blocks. The Costa Rican border guard paces back and forth and thinks of his home in San Jose. Occasionally, he looks across the border and into the hills and jungles of Nicaragua. He has only a few rounds of ammunition to defend himself should the attack come today. "Costa Rica is faced by a country to the north that has a formidable military machine," says National Security Chairman Roger A. Munson. "If Nicaragua ever wants to, it can eat Costa Rica for dessert."

With an active-duty armed force of 75,000, buttressed by a reserve of 50,000, and equipped with Soviet arms and trained by Soviet and Cuban forces, Nicaragua presents an overwhelming threat to its militarily weaker neighbors, while exporting terrorism throughout the entire Western Hemisphere.

The team in Nicaragua came away with further information regarding the

insurgencies in El Salvador. Salvadoran troops have made great progress in curtailing rebel activities and the FMLN ranks have fallen from 12,000 to 6,000 in recent years.

Organization of American States — This organization consists of countries from South America, Central America, the Caribbean and North America. The group seeks to promote and protect economic and national security interests within the Western Hemisphere.

Rio Treaty — This mutual-defense pact was put into place following World War II. It advocates a multilateral defense posture for nations in the Western Hemisphere rather than a unilateral approach that was established by the Monroe Doctrine. Many observers have said that the Rio Treaty has not been effective in stopping outside aggressors from moving into the hemisphere.

Monroe Doctrine — The doctrine was a blueprint advanced by President James Monroe in 1823 to thwart European expansion in the Western Hemisphere.

Liberation Theology — Liberation Theology is a Latin American religious theory calling for revolution to alleviate suffering of the poor. It proposes cooperation between Christianity and communism. The Sandinista government supports a "popular church" espousing Liberation Theology and suppresses traditional churches.

La Prensa — Headed by Violeta Chamorro, Nicaragua's largest daily newspaper was shut down by the Sandinistas in June 1986 because of its coverage of conditions in Nicaragua and criticisms of Sandinista activities. Ironically, the 1978 assassination of Mrs. Chamorro's husband, a world-renowned defender of freedom of the press and publisher of *La Prensa*, sparked the revolution that swept the Sandinistas into power. Pedro Joaquin Chamorro, son of Violeta Chamorro, and former editor of *La Prensa*, is now a member of the directorate of the Contras. □

victories of the Democratic Resistance, which is fighting to bring democracy to Nicaragua. From reports received from sources ranging from the U.S. Ambassador, to the Sandinistas themselves, the team came back with impressive progress reports, indicating that continued U.S. aid can pay off.

"We met with the U.S. Ambassador in Nicaragua," NECman Comer said, "who explained that the Contras can exert significant pressure on the Sandinistas if they receive continued and sufficient U.S. aid." U.S. military experts postulate that the Contras can, in fact, win with adequate support, but it may take years.

Drawing on his analysis of reports brought up through other channels, PCAG consultant Gen. Robert C. Kingston added, "For the first time, the Contras have supplies in Nicaragua; they don't have to go back to Honduras. They have a three-plane air force that permits limited airdrop of supplies. The Sandinistas have even reported the progress of the Contras coming critically close to Managua."

CENSORED—*La Prensa publisher Violeta Chamorro tells Harrell, Comer and Spanogle that the Sandinistas shut the paper down to end freedom of the press.*

The stench of gangrene overpowers visitors who come to the military hospital in crowded downtown San Salvador. Humidity and heat slumps over the wards where beds are filled with soldiers—legless, armless...some faceless. One tells the doctor how the guerrillas' land mine blew off his leg just a few days before. "A few years ago, the young trooper would have died. That was before U.S. aid brought helicopters and Army medics to teach battlefield medicine," said Robert W. Spanogle, Nat'l Adjutant.

Referring to the nation's present "yo-yo" policy of support for the Contras, Foreign Relations Chairman Doc Simon pointed out, "What we're doing now, in my opinion, is something very immoral. We are giving the Contras just enough money to keep bleeding and dying in the jungles without giving them enough to win.

"I think morally and strategically we have to make that decision. Either we really stand against communism and for democracy in Central America or we pull out totally.

"Either way, we have a moral obligation to let those people who are willing to fight and die for democracy know exactly where we stand. We would be dealing with them honorably," said Simon. "We would either say, 'Hey, we're really going to support you,' or 'Sorry, we've talked it over and you are

THE JACKSON PLAN

THE Jackson Plan is a comprehensive set of recommendations for long-term economic, social, political and military assistance designed to assure further development of democracy in the nations of Central America.

It is the result of recommendations submitted to President Reagan by the National Bipartisan Commission on Central America, often referred to as the Kissinger Commission in honor of its chairman, the former Secretary of State. President Reagan formed the commission in 1983, at the suggestion of members of Congress from both political parties, led by the late Sen. Henry M. Jackson. Jackson had long advocated a multiyear commitment to Central American democratic nations, initially and loosely patterned after the post-World War II Marshall Plan.

The commission's report was dedicated to Jackson and delivered to the President in January 1984. Approved in general outline by Congress in 1985, the Jackson Plan has never been fully funded.

A new plan for fully funding the recommendations of the NBCCA was prepared by the Secretary of State, the Administrator of the Agency for International Development and the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, and submitted to Congress in March 1987.

Major provisions of the Jackson Plan arise from the commission's determination that the crisis in Central America has its roots in a long history of social injustice, maldistribution of national income, government oppression and closed political systems. They include four major goals, focusing on economic, social and democratization efforts:

- Strengthening democratic institutions and processes;
- Arresting economic decline and promoting economic stabilization;
- Laying the basis, through structural transformation, for sustained economic growth;
- Increasing equity and spreading the benefits of economic growth.

In addition, and in accord with Jackson's conviction that no democracy could develop while under the unrestrained threat of military action by a hostile Marxist regime in Nicaragua, the commission also recommended multiyear funding of military aid to the region, but did not specify the level of funding or other details. □

'THE SANDINISTA ARMY IS, CLEARLY, NOT AN ARMY BEING BUILT FOR DEFENSE.'

not worthy of our support. You are not worthy of democracy.' "

A father leads his family through a maze of vines and hills as dusk engulfs Nicaragua. A once hard-core Sandinista soldier lays down his weapon and slips across the border into Honduras. The utopian promises made by the Sandinista commandantes have yet to materialize and the paranoia level increases each day. Nicaraguans vote with their feet.

"It's only a matter of time before many more of the Sandinista military will be coming over to the Contras," says PNC Dale Renaud. "Inside Nicaragua, Contras are receiving more support from the people who provide them base camps, shelter and food."

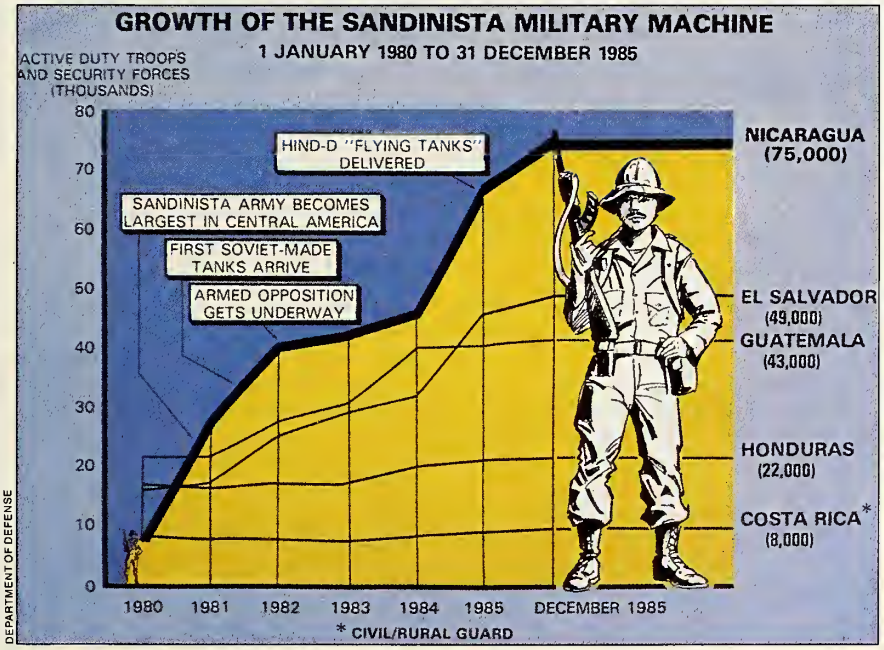
The crisis in Central America is a regional conflict, PCAG found. The Soviet/Cuban influence in Nicaragua has built up a military machine of such proportions that it exports revolution across its borders to the neighboring democracies.

The group concluded that aid for the Democratic Resistance is sound, "as far as it goes." However, such aid cannot stand alone as a strategy, but is a vital part of the two-track strategy. It must be considered a tactic in a bipartisan foreign policy for Central America. Noting the fallacy of inconsistent support for the Nicaraguan freedom fighters, PCAG said that, with continuing support, the Contras can fight their own battles and make a difference in the struggle to bring democracy to the nation.

"What we want to do in Central America is right, but we're doing it wrong," explained one member of the group. Expressing the Legion's support for the Jackson Plan of economic development for the region, Nat'l Cmdr. Dean said, "What we have now is 'lip service' masquerading as foreign policy. What we have in the way of foreign policy in Central America is generally correct, but is inadequately funded, and reflects the indecision in Washington. Again, that indecision is fed by misinformation that has been funneled into lawmakers' offices, filling the void created by lack of input from a constituency that is unaware of all the facts and issues."

ROBLES/U.S. PICTURES

ARMORED STRENGTH—*Soviet-supplied weapons to Nicaragua's expanding army include armored troop carriers, tanks, helo gunships, artillery and trucks.*



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

MILITARY MACHINE — *Neighboring democracies are worried about Nicaragua's intentions since it has increased its armed forces seven-fold since 1980.*

A SEARCH FOR CONSENSUS

'I AM CONVINCED THAT SUPPORT FOR THE DEMOCRATIC RESISTANCE IS SOUND POLICY.'

The C-47 cargo plane drops from the sky and rolls to a stop near a remote village in Honduras. A team of U.S. Army nurses, medical technicians, and a doctor from Palmerola Air Base sets up shop. Villagers gather around the strangers, but not all of them are on sick call. For many, it's the first time they have seen a doctor, much less North Americans. Occasionally, a dentist or veterinarian makes the trek with the medical team. "The Army medical teams at Palmerola are the most caring and compassionate people I've ever seen," said PCAG consultant Gen. Robert C. Kingston. "Some might think that it's great PR, but I believe it truly shows a deep concern for these people."

After their extensive visits — which brought them in contact with citizens of the various nations from all walks of life, as well as elected leaders and U.S. officials — the group expressed pride in what is being done with limited funds and assistance from the United States. "We have to take credit for the dollars we've spent," was one conclusion, as they noted that American tax dollars are thwarting communism and sowing the seeds of democracy in Central America.

The PCAG consensus? "Unless the United States immediately implements a comprehensive, multidimensional, bipartisan foreign policy for this region, the cost to future generations may be greater than we can possibly envision."

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PCAG specifically recommends that The American Legion study the U.S. embargo of Nicaragua to determine its strategic effectiveness. A second PCAG recommendation calls for an increase in the number of U.S. scholarships and education and training opportunities for Central American students to study in the United States.

The following is a summary of the conclusions of The American Legion's Policy Coordination and Action Group:

- The United States has a vital national security interest in encouraging democracy in and excluding Soviet and Cuban influence from Central America.
- The crisis in Central America is a regional conflict. Democracy cannot take firm root and be sustained in Central America until the problem of communism in Nicaragua is resolved.
- American aid has enabled the Central Americans to establish and improve democracies there.
- Given sustained U.S. aid, the Democratic Resistance (Contras) can make a difference in the struggle for democracy in Nicaragua.
- U.S. policy toward Central America is generally correct; however, indecision in Washington has undercut its implementation.
- Failure of the United States to meet the challenge in Central America may well result in the commitment of U.S. troops and massive expenditures of funds.
- The United States must develop a bipartisan consensus toward Central America. It can't be a Republican policy; it can't be a Democratic policy; it must be an American policy.
- Legionnaires and other concerned Americans must stand up and speak out for a strong policy to encourage democracy and to eliminate communism from Central America. They must demand that Congress and the Administration forge a comprehensive bipartisan foreign policy for the United States. □

QUOTES

"What we are doing now is something very immoral. We are giving the Contras just enough money to keep on bleeding and dying in the jungles, without giving them enough to win." — Doc Simon, Foreign Relations Chrm.

"I am more convinced than ever that support for the Democratic Resistance in Nicaragua is sound policy. As a free people, it is our obligation to aid those seeking freedom throughout the world." — James P. Dean, Nat'l Cmdr.

"We can honestly say that our views are not based on hearsay, but on very clear, hard information that we learned firsthand for ourselves." — James P. Dean, Nat'l Cmdr.

"We traveled by helicopter to the Salvadoran Fourth Brigade at El Paraiso, an area where much of the guerrilla activity is centered. What we saw was a good, professional force. Col. Rubio, the brigade commander, has a well-disciplined, highly motivated group of soldiers." — John Comer, NEC (MA)

"Because of the flood of refugees from Nicaragua, Costa Rica is seeing diseases it has not seen for years—diseases such as typhoid and malaria."—Dale L. Renaud, PNC

"Your member of Congress may not be hearing from you, but he is hearing from paid lobbyists and other supporters of the Sandinista government, and that influences how he or she votes."—W. D. Harrell, NEC (GA)

"We hear so much about Catholic priests being expelled or harassed because they have spoken for freedom and democracy in Nicaragua. We forget that the same thing is happening to Protestant ministers as well."—Robert W. Spanogle, Nat'l Adjutant

"I called my wife each night, and I know that the clicking sounds on the line meant we were being bugged. I couldn't leave Nicaragua fast enough."—John Comer, NEC (MA)

"I would tell you what I think of the Sandinistas, my friends—but the walls have ears."—Violeta Chamorro, Publisher, La Prensa □

A SEARCH FOR CONSENSUS

PROFILES OF CENTRAL AMERICA

BELIZE

• Government: Parliamentary republic • Leader: Prime Minister Manuel A. Esquivel • Population: 168,000 • Military forces: very small infantry • Major exports: sugar, garments, seafood, wood and citrus fruits • Per capita income: $1,200 • Life expectancy: 66 • Infant mortality rate: 56/1,000.

Belize, formerly British Honduras, gained its independence from Britain in 1981 and held its first election in 1984. It remains neutral in regional conflicts and still has British troops on its soil because of territorial disputes with Guatemala.

COSTA RICA

• Government: Democracy • Leader: President Arias Sanchez • Population: 2.7 million • Military forces: none. • Major exports: coffee, bananas, beef, sugar and cocoa • Per capita income: $1,280 • Life expectancy: 67 • Infant mortality rate: 18/1,000

Costa Rica is Central America's longest existing democracy, celebrating a century of democratic rule in 1988. It remains neutral in regional conflicts and opposes both U.S. intervention in the region and the Sandinistas. President Arias has proposed a peace plan for the region. PCAG members talked to Nicaragua resistance leaders in Costa Rica about the plan. "They pointed out that the Arias Peace Plan was not working and would not work until the Sandinista government is gone," said National Security Chrm. Roger A. Munson. "*No plan* will work in Central America until the Sandinista government is gone." Costa Rica has the most students in Central America on scholarship to Russia. "They want more exchange scholarships allowing them to come to the United States," explained PNC Dale Renaud.

EL SALVADOR

• Government: Democracy • Leader: President Jose Napoleon Durate • Population: 5.1 million • Military forces: 49,000 • Major exports: coffee, sugar, cotton and shrimp • Per capita income: $880 • Life expectancy: 63 • Infant mortality rate: 41/1,000.

El Salvador held free and open national elections without disruption in 1982, 1984 and 1985. Democratic institutions have gained steadily during these years. A seven-year civil war and last year's earthquake have drained the economy. PCAG members witnessed the earthquake's destruction and saw many armed military personnel along the streets, proving political unrest by the FMLN lives on. However, the country enjoys freedom of the press and freedom to speak out against the government — a democratic right not available five years ago. "They have a lot of reform, such as a pension plan, social security and a disabled veterans program," said NECman John P. Comer. "They've come a long way in a short time."

GUATEMALA

• Government: Democracy • Leader: President Vinicio Cerezo Arevalo • Population: 8.6 million • Military forces: 43,000 • Major exports: coffee, cotton, sugar, bananas and petroleum • Per capita income: $1,150 • Life expectancy: 60 • Infant mortality rate: 66/1,000.

Guatemala began its return to democracy in 1984 and a civilian leader was elected in 1985, following 30 years of military rule and political violence. The government enacted comprehensive economic reforms in 1986 to stimulate the economy. "While Guatemala is an ally of the United States, it really can't commit itself because of our ever-changing foreign policy," said Foreign Relations Chrm. Doc Simon. "As a result they are backing the Contadora group."

HONDURAS

• Government: Democracy • Leader: President Jose Azcona Hoyo • Population: 4.6 million • Military forces: 22,000 • Major exports: bananas, coffee, beef, lumber, metals and sugar • Per capita income: $750 • Life expectancy: 59 • Infant mortality rate: 78/1,000.

Honduras has strengthened its democratic trend with open elections in 1981 and 1985. Honduras is a close ally of the U.S. and has participated with the U.S. in numerous military exercises. Although it has provided a haven for the Contras, it has never formally acknowledged their presence. While in Honduras, PCAG members met with the Contra leaders. "The Contras aren't just fumbling around down there — they're doing long-range planning. For that, they need our long-range support," said National Commander James P. Dean. Bordering war-torn El Salvador and Nicaragua, Honduras is in the most vulnerable position. The United States is providing Honduras with 12 F-5 jets to strengthen its air force, the strongest in Central America. "Honduras has let the other countries know that if they mess with them, they are going to bomb their capital," said PCAG consultant Gen. Robert C. Kingston.

NICARAGUA

• Government: Marxist/Leninist Dictatorship • Leader: President Daniel Ortega Saavedra • Population: 3.3 million • Military forces: 75,000 and a reserve force of 50,000 • Major exports: coffee, cotton, sugar, beef, bananas, gold and shellfish • Per capita income: $960 • Life expectancy: 56 • Infant mortality rate: 84/1,000.

Since taking power in 1979, the Sandinista government has been spreading its influence throughout the area by supporting and training guerrillas to overthrow other Central American governments. "The heat must be kept on the Sandinistas using the Contras to keep them so busy they will leave other nations alone," said National Commander James P. Dean. NECman John P. Comer added that additional Contra funding will be needed to support the Contra effort. "If the vote for Contra aid goes down to defeat, the Contras only have enough resources to make it to the end of the year," Comer said. "If that happens, the Sandinistas will have an open door to all of Central America."

PANAMA

• Government: Democracy: • Leader: President Eric Arturo Delvalle Henriquez • Population: 2.2 million • Military forces: 10,000 • Major exports: petroleum products, bananas, shrimp, and sugar • Per capita income: $2,159 • Life expectancy: 71 • Infant mortality rate: 20/1,000.

Panama is a democracy, but the military effectively controls the country. With a large U.S. military presence, it is the home of the U.S. Southern Military Command. The United States will relinquish control of the Panama Canal in 2000 to Panama, a fact that is of continuing concern to American Legion defense experts.

PCAG was unable to visit Panama due to civil unrest in the country; however, when National Commander James P. Dean and his wife, Carolyn, visited Panama in February, they were alarmed at the number of Panamanian young people who were being sent to Cuba and the Soviet Union to be educated. "They are now returning to Panama and becoming involved in business and government, as well as teaching in the schools," said Dean. "When Carolyn and I were there, many citizens expressed concern to us about their reluctance to allow their children to be educated in Panamanian schools due to the strong communist influence already present." Moreover, Dean said, the feeling was prevalent that some type of civil unrest was imminent, "a fact which I reported to our U.S. officials there." □

Nicaraguan Embargo

Who Is It Hurting?

IS THE U.S. embargo of Nicaragua helping or hurting the cause of democracy in Central America? That question has prompted PCAG members to recommend further study of the matter.

On May 1, 1985, the United States invoked economic sanctions on Nicaragua, banning all U.S. trade, prohibiting Nicaraguan air flights to the U.S. and Nicaraguan ships from docking at U.S. ports. In addition, the United States abolished the Treaty of Friendship, Commerce and Navigation between the two nations.

As required by law, President Reagan declared a national emergency before imposing the sanctions. The President said he was taking the action because "policies and actions of the government of Nicaragua constituted an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States." The President cited the aggressive activities of the Sandinistas throughout Central America and their "rapid and destabilizing military buildup."

After the President's action, there was considerable comment, pro and con, from Capitol Hill. In support of the action, Sen. Lloyd Bentsen of Texas said that perhaps the embargo "can help persuade those in power in Managua to send home the 2,500 to 3,500 Cuban and Soviet military advisers... and to stop supporting armed insurgents against their neighbors."

Reflecting an opposing view, Sen. Mark Hatfield of Oregon contended that the embargo was "slamming the door on the possibility of peace... we are driving them into permanent embrace of the Russian bear."

Embargoes are nothing new. They have been used throughout history as a non-military means of applying pressure to achieve foreign policy goals of many nations. Studies, however, indicate that economic embargoes generally are of questionable usefulness unless they are implemented on a very broad base—with multi-national cooperation, for example. Embargoes imposed solely by one nation on another leave too many loopholes to be exploited by the embargoed nation, and businessmen interested only in making a profit are usually willing to help the embargoed nation get what it needs through indirect methods.

J.B. PICTURES

QUESTIONABLE—*Studies indicate that embargoes generally are useless unless implemented on a broad base with multi-national cooperation.*

Proponents of President Reagan's action say the embargo will intensify the serious economic problems caused in Nicaragua by the Sandinistas' mismanagement. Additionally, they say the embargo serves as a morale booster for U.S. allies in the region, who see it as further pressure to persuade the Sandinistas to bring democracy to Nicaragua as was promised in 1979.

Critics believe the embargo offers the Sandinistas a way out. They say the Sandinistas can blame all of their economic woes—brought on by their own mismanagement—on the United States. They also point out that the Sandinista government can still obtain most of the U.S. imports it needs by working through third parties. Thus, opponents of the embargo say it undercuts U.S. policies in Nicaragua by depriving business leaders sympathetic to the Contra cause of their livelihood. As a result, the businessmen are leaving Nicaragua for better business climates, thereby diminishing the ranks of the internal opposition.

The Legion's Policy Coordination and Action Group has recommended that a close analysis be made to determine the value of economic sanctions to U.S. foreign policy in Central America.

Speaking of the issue during the PCAG debriefing session, NECman John P. Comer said, "We went to Nicaragua for an unbiased assessment of the situation. We came away with the reinforced view that the Sandinistas are imposing a Marxist-Leninist totalitarian dictatorship on the people of Nicaragua, and that the Contras should be strongly supported in their struggle to bring democracy to their fellow countrymen. But, we think there are two sides of the issue of economic sanctions. We sure don't want to see the United States shoot itself in the foot by using economic sanctions that might be counterproductive."

National Adjutant Robert W. Spanogle echoed Comer's concern. "If the objective of the embargo policy is to devastate their economy and then, after devastating their economy, we think the people will rise up in a popular uprising, we are kidding ourselves," Spanogle said. "The embargo is hurting Nicaragua's middle class—the leaders of the Democratic Resistance and the internal resistance. Any Nicaraguan is going to have a difficult time supporting an uprising against the Sandinista government if he doesn't have the means to support his own family." □

REFUGEE TIME BOMB

By Dr. Donald L. Huddle

THIRD World populations are beginning to live longer because of improved medical technology and public health, but it has its ominous side. Of the 4 billion or so people who live in the Third World, more than half are miserably poor. Since 1980, per capita income in these countries has fallen because of high population growth, a depressed international economy, a huge foreign debt and economic mismanagement. As a consequence, there are growing signs of radical politics and social upheavals that are aided and abetted by both the Soviets and Chinese communists.

These threats have transferred the population bomb into the refugee bomb. Many U.S. citizens fear that these "huddled masses" could sink the American lifeboat.

In fact, the potential for refugee and asylum claims on the heaving bosom of the Statue of Liberty is enormous. For example, since 1958 nearly a million Cuban refugees and their families have been admitted to the United States and, since 1974, more than 900,000 Southeast Asians have been admitted. The Asians are entering at a rate of more than 52,000 a year from Vietnam, Kampuchea and Laos.

This growing refugee problem also extends to Central America.

A possible embarrassment here, as critics of U.S. refugee decisions see it, is President Napoleon Duarte in El Salvador. He has begged the current administration to extend quasi-legal status to an estimated half-million Salvadoran economic refugees illegally in the United States who are not eligible for the 1986 amnesty law. To call them political refugees would make administration support for Duarte look ridiculous.

Cumulative pressures may yet force the administration to grant Extended Voluntary Departure (EVD) to these Salvadorans. That is the intent of the church-sponsored Sanctuary movement, and of several bills in Congress that also include Guatemalans and other Central Americans. INS officials said they fear that EVD could be turned into de facto immigrant status. Now, an EVD is entitled to a work permit and social assistance.

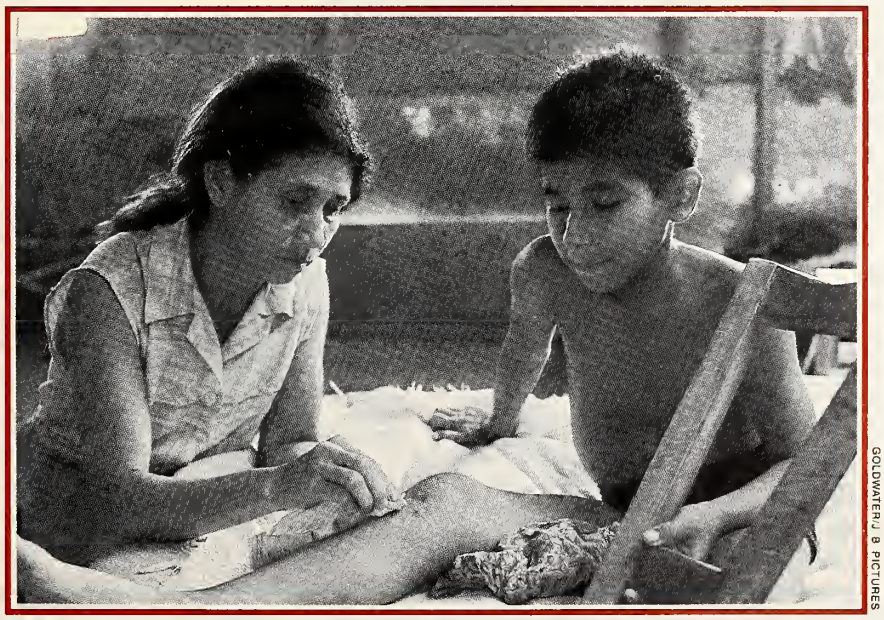
IN THIS context, what if Mexico were taken over by socialists or forced into a non-Marxist-Leninist, law-and-order dictatorship? How many millions might rush the border and fall under the protective panoply of minority and refugee rights? A recent Rand Corporation study estimated that in three years 16 million Mexicans could be ready to emigrate. With Central America and the Caribbean, that figure doubles to 32 million refugees.

America would face a tremendous financial burden if such a mass exodus were to occur, especially in light of the 1982 Supreme Court decision that said undocumented children have a constitutional right to a free public education. Also, many other economic and welfare rights have been made available to undocumented children and adults.

Economically, an overwhelming number of refugees would exact a stiff price tag from U.S. taxpayers. Studies estimate that each illegal alien or refugee costs Uncle Sam more than $2,000 annually by employment displacement of U.S. workers and by use of the U.S. welfare system, food stamps, aid to families with dependent children, public housing, unemployment benefits, education, health care and law enforcement. This includes a credit for FICA and income taxes actually paid by aliens and refugees. It does not include the costs of unrepaid loans by most refugees and their resettlement costs.

Even the accounting for these partial costs points up the awesome financial demands Americans would face if any rush across the U.S. border materialized: an annual cost of at least $32 billion for Mexican refugees alone, and $64 billion by including Central America and the Caribbean. □

Dr. Donald L. Huddle, a Rice University professor who specializes in Latin American economies, was a member of the Governor of Texas Task Force on Illegal Immigration.



GOLDWATER/J B PICTURES

HEAVY BURDEN — *Caring for Central American refugees would become more costly than what is now spent on U.S. aid to the region.*

INTERVIEW

A CLEAR AND PRESENT DANGER

The Sandinista government of Nicaragua is a classic Marxist-Leninist dictatorship that cannot be taken lightly by the United States, says intelligence expert Ray S. Cline in this exclusive interview.

ART STEIN

American Legion Magazine: Congress and many Americans seem to be confused about the political philosophy of Nicaragua's Sandinista government. Can you shed light on that?

Dr. Ray Cline: The Sandinista government is very clear about its own ideological identity. It was created largely by Cubans who depend on Soviet support. There is no question that this is a typical totalitarian state committed, as the Sandinistas have said, to a "revolution without borders" in Central America. Sandinista involvement in El Salvador illustrates that they are serious about exporting communist revolution to other Caribbean nations.

Q. What is holding them back?

A. Two elements: the isolation of their economy and their government by pressure from the United States — Nicaragua is run badly and its people are underprivileged and dissatisfied; and the anti-communist Contras. ("Contra" means against the totalitarian Sandinista government.) As long as the Contras are willing to fight *against* the totalitarian government, the Sandinistas will never feel safe and will continue trying to crush the resistance.

Q. Many people believe the existence of a communist state in the Americas poses a threat to U.S. security. Is this a valid concern?

A. Yes. It is always difficult for Americans to accept that a small country with a hostile government can hurt us. But Nicaragua's form of government is a political reality that makes the strength of Cuban influence in the Caribbean, and the Soviet influence in this whole region, more powerful. We are dealing here with a conflict of opposing systems of government and society. About 40 percent of the nations in the world today are built on the totalitarian model, and most

Dr. Ray S. Cline, a former CIA intelligence officer, is chairman of the U.S. Global Strategy Council and professor of international relations at Georgetown University, Washington, D.C.

are Marxist-Leninist states. The United States is trying to prevent the consolidation and spread of totalitarian dictatorships in the Caribbean. It is a worthwhile objective most Americans support. But not well-understood is the danger to other nations posed by the conscious intent of Cuba and the Soviet Union to spread this form of government.

Q. How can we handle this problem?

A. By supporting Nicaraguans who believe it possible to prevent a Marxist-Leninist dictatorship and are willing to fight to prevent it. Fighting is the only sure way to stop it. Negotiating, giving concessions, permitting compromises that don't work well — in the history of the formation of these kinds of governments — always have failed in the end. It is only when the citizens of a threatened country are willing to fight for their democratic rights, that they ever have a chance of getting them.

J. B. PICTURES

ON A SOVIET STRING — *The Sandinistas are preparing for "a revolution without borders."*

Q. What is the real value to the United States and world freedom in continuing to provide aid to the Contra freedom fighters?

A. U.S. assistance will help those troops successfully oppose communist control of Nicaragua, which eventually will force the Sandinistas to make compromises to their own citizens. History tells us that regimes indoctrinated as thoroughly and systematically in Leninism as the Sandinistas rarely make concessions or voluntarily relinquish power; it has to be fought for. The Contras provide the best way to keep the Sandinistas on the defensive and to make them turn to a more pluralistic form of government. The Contras also have been able to divert the Sandinistas from supporting guerrilla warfare in El Salvador and Costa Rica.

Q. What happens if we cut off aid to the Contras?

A. It probably will be a tragedy for the Nicaraguan people. The Contras will begin to dwindle and disband out of discouragement and despair.

But the real tragedy will be in the damaged image of U.S. commitment to representative government and freedom. We have a poor track record for sticking by nations seeking freedom, and have offered only lackadaisical support to such countries as Afghanistan and Angola.

But here is a situation close to our own border, where outsiders assume we have a strong strategic interest in preventing a Soviet-supported dictatorship. If we cut off aid to the Contras, we will lose so much prestige and credibility that other anti-communist groups will say, "We want to fight, but we need to know that you won't desert us in the pinches."

Q. If the Contras quit because we stopped support, could the communist movement in Central America spread to the U.S. border?

A. When and how such movements would be successful in various countries would depend on the circumstances and the strength and ingenuity of the local governments' dedication to democratic reform. But the Soviet Union, the Cubans and the Sandinistas are very clear that they intend for this revolution to spread throughout Central America and to reach into Mexico.

THE United States has a poor track record when it comes to sticking by nations that seek human rights and freedom.

Mexico is the key question. Once you include Mexico as a target, it is apparent American strategic interests are gravely threatened. In the long run, we probably would be drawn into a military conflict to protect our own borders.

Q. If the Contras take over, what would prevent them from reverting to another form of dictatorship to replace the current one?

A. With the influence and pressure from the United States—the kind we're unsuccessfully trying to exert on the Sandinistas—democratic elements in the Contra movement would succeed in creating a form of government much improved over the current one. Gradually, it would take on a more democratic character. The fact the church, intellectuals and people who care about democratic procedure are still persisting under the Sandinistas means there is a chance to form a better society.

Nicaragua is a troubled country that has been brutalized by outside intervention. The Sandinistas were aided particularly by Cuba, and are still dominated by Cubans acting as proxies for the Soviet Union. We have to feel that a better system of government could evolve if the outside influences were not totalitarian—but reflected what the United States wants: not

Please turn to page 52

THE BEAR IN

The long-range Soviet plan to conquer Central America is right on schedule. Only strong American opposition to the Sandinistas in Nicaragua will stand in the way.

By Dr. Timothy F. Ashby

CRITICS of the current administration's policy toward Central America have charged that the threat to U.S. and regional security is grossly exaggerated. Such people assert we have nothing to fear from little Nicaragua with its 3 million people and 125,000-man army, including militia.

Is there a threat in Central America? The answer is an emphatic yes, although the actual threat is far more subtle than the scenario sometimes projected by the administration of Soviet tanks crossing the border at Harlingen, Texas. Nicaragua, like its big brother Cuba and former ally Grenada, has become a focal point for a Soviet strategic plan to destabilize the vital Caribbean and Central American region. Moscow's strategy incorporates five major objectives:

- Erosion of U.S. influence in the region.
- Expansion of Soviet influence and power.
- Establishment and maintenance of Soviet proxy forces such as Cuba and Nicaragua.
- Proliferation of Soviet military, command, control and communications, and intelligence facilities.
- Forced withdrawal of U.S. influence from other parts of the world in response to a greater security threat along the U.S. southern flank.

Dr. Timothy F. Ashby is deputy director of the Arthur Spitzer Institute for Hemispheric Development, Heritage Foundation, in Washington, D.C.

The Kremlin's strategists have gone on record as saying the Caribbean and Central America's importance "can hardly be exaggerated... In military-strategic terms, it is a sort of hinterland on whose stability freedom of United States action in other parts of the world depends." This Soviet assessment is accurate—logistics planning for the U.S. military estimates almost half of the shipping tonnage needed to reinforce NATO and about 40 percent of that required by a major East Asian conflict would have to pass from the Gulf of Mexico through the Caribbean-Central American area. These same routes also carry roughly 50 percent of all foreign cargo, including oil imported to the United States.

It is highly doubtful that significant numbers of Soviet conventional military forces will ever be stationed in Nicaragua, or that the scenario of Soviet *Backfire* bombers using Central American bases is realistic. Nicaragua has other uses as a Soviet strategic asset that seem far more credible.

The first and most important of these uses is as a secure base on the North American mainland for exporting Marxist-Leninist revolution. Almost from the moment it took power in Nicaragua in July 1979, the Sandinista regime, assisted by Cubans, Soviets and East Germans, has provided training and logistical support of subversives and communist revolutionaries from several Latin American and Caribbean countries. Without the active support of Nicaragua, for example, the communist guerrillas fighting to overthrow the democratically elected government of El Salvador could not survive as an effective fighting force.

According to a defector from the DGSE, the Sandinista state security agency, the Nicaraguan communists and their Cuban and Soviet backers have a timetable for conquering Central America. In the Soviet Union's long-term strategy for Central America, "Mexico is slated to be the last country to fall." The Sandinista defector said high-ranking Cuban intelligence officials he worked with in the DGSE "were very confident of their position in Mexico... They have a large number of agents in the unions and political parties. If they just snap their fingers, the situation will explode. They have also paid off and blackmailed the Mexican security forces, which would thus be paralyzed in a crisis."

A Central American isthmus—including Mexico—dominated by Soviet client states would confront the United States with a populous enemy along an undefended border about 2,000 miles long. As the Soviets well know, any serious threat developing close to the borders of the United States would probably lead to a withdrawal of U.S. forces from Europe and Asia.

THE Sandinista army, although small by U.S. standards, is nonetheless the largest and most powerful military force in Central America. Its Soviet-supplied tanks, heavy artillery and helicopter gunships probably will be used to intimidate Nicaragua's neighbors such as Costa Rica, which doesn't even have an army, or actually invade them in support of a communist insurgency. If Central America falls to Soviet-allied revolutionaries, the United States can expect an unprecedented flood of refugees—perhaps as many as 12 million people. The cost to the U.S. taxpayer would be enormous, not to mention the resulting social and political problems, and the likelihood of terrorists or enemy agents entering the United States with the rising tide of illegals.

Nicaragua's second use as a Soviet strategic asset would be to provide direct support for Moscow's global military activities. A number of large-scale, Soviet-financed construction projects in Nicaragua have clear military roles.

For example, construction of the new Punta Huete airfield near Managua is nearly complete. Revetments have been built for a squadron of MiGs that has yet to be delivered to the Sandinistas. The airfield's length of two miles and thickness of more than three feet will accommodate Soviet long-range reconnaissance aircraft similar to those from Cuban bases that have been flying regular patrols along the U.S. eastern

OUR BACK YARD

BOSIO/GAMMA LIAISON

BLOOD BROTHERS— ***Cuba's Fidel Castro and Nicaragua's Daniel Ortega both promised democracy to their people, but delivered oppressive communist regimes instead.***

IN THE Soviets' long-term strategy for Central America, Mexico is slated to be the last country to fall.

seaboard for more than 15 years. From Punta Huete, Soviet Tu-142 naval reconnaissance aircraft could monitor all important U.S. West Coast military installations. With its 5,000-mile flying radius, the Tu-142 could easily spy on the Puget Sound Trident submarine base in Washington without violating U.S. airspace. This would place one of the United States' most vital strategic assets in jeopardy, for Soviet aircraft operating from Nicaragua also could track U.S. Trident ballistic-missile submarines at sea as they proceed to their bases. The sensitive missile-testing facility at Vandenberg AFB in California similarly would become vulnerable to Soviet electronic surveillance.

Following Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega's visit to Moscow in May 1982, the Soviet Union was leased the Pacific coast harbor of San Juan del Sur as "a port of call for Soviet fishing boats." Such port facilities with major servicing capabilities on the Western side of Nicaragua will allow Soviet intelligence-collecting trawlers to more easily monitor U.S. naval vessels transiting the Panama Canal and operating in the Pacific. In addition, Bulgarian and Cuban engineers are completing another major port complex at El Bluff, on Nicaragua's Caribbean coast. Soviet naval vessels now take part in annual maneuvers in the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean using Cuba as a base. There is little reason to doubt they may someday use Nicaragua for the same purpose.

What should the United States do to prevent the Soviet Union from carrying out its strategic plan for Central America? Although continued funding for the anti-communist Contra forces should be a vital component of a U.S. counterstrategy, it is not enough. The Contras do not, and almost certainly will not, have the military capability to defeat the powerful Sandinista war machine. The Contras' greatest value is their ability to put constant military pressure on the Sandinistas. However, this will only work if the United States and its democratic allies place equal emphasis on diplomatic pressure.

The best way of doing this is for the United States to apply the pressure to reconvene the Organization of American States' 17th consultative meeting of foreign ministers. It was this body that, in 1979, granted diplomatic recognition to the Sandinistas based on their promises to allow political pluralism, respect human rights and be nonaligned internationally. Not only have the Sandinistas not kept these promises, they also have actively worked to subvert other OAS countries.

The Sandinistas could be dealt a blow internationally if their activities were condemned by the OAS. If the Sandinistas do not halt their support for revolution and distance themselves from the Soviets, the United States, as a member of the OAS, could move that collective action be taken against Nicaragua. This could include breaking relations with the Sandinistas and recognizing a representative Contra group as a provisional government, as well as adopting economic sanctions against Nicaragua. □

'YOU MUST BE A STEADY ALLY'

Nicaraguan freedom fighter Ernesto Palazio appeals for consistency in U.S. support of the Contras, and in this exclusive interview, tells why aid to the resistance is essential to American security.

American Legion Magazine: Who are the Nicaraguan Democratic Resistance Forces, better known as the Contras?

Ernesto Palazio: In 1979, there was a coalition of national forces that got together to overthrow Anastasio Somoza. His overthrow wasn't really due to an ideological struggle — it was basically a battle of democracy against dictatorship. It is important to remember that the coalition that overthrew Somoza, with the exception of Somoza's National Guard, represented most Nicaraguans. But the Sandinistas took control of the coalition and established their own dictatorship — one that was much more scientific than Somoza's. The Sandinistas have couched their dictatorship in a political party that has ties to an ideological movement with international connections — the communist movement.

Q. How many Contras are there?

A. If you're talking about people who are actually fighting, there are between 15,000 and 20,000. These figures are vague because there is a peasant insurgency at work within Nicaragua. Most of our forces are peasants, such as the Miskito Indians. The peasants all have chores to do — they have to take care of their crops — so they come and go. At any given time, we might have from 11,000 to 18,000 armed fighters. But sympathizers to our cause number in the hundreds of thousands. There are a great many who wish to join us, but cannot because we do not have enough supplies to arm them. You must remember that the words "freedom fighter" must not be limited to just Nicaraguans who have joined the armed resistance. Freedom fighters are also those who fight for freedom in all aspects, and many do so without arms, such as Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo, who is definitely a freedom fighter. The people behind *La Prensa* (publication suspended by the Sandinistas in June 1986) are freedom fighters. But there are many other freedom-loving Nicaraguans who spiritually support the resistance. We are all freedom fighters.

Q. Given that support, why do we hear that the Contras will not prevail, no matter how much aid they are given?

A. Anyone who says that the Contras are not committed are wrong. Thousands of Nicaraguans have died fighting for democracy; hundreds have been maimed. What more can the Nicaraguan people do to prove their commitment than fight a superpower in Nicaragua, even though we are not assured of America's help? We will prevail if given commensurate and steady support by our allies, basically the United States, but it must be similar to that given to the Sandinistas by the Soviets.

Q. Will the Democratic Resistance Forces continue to fight, even without American aid?

A. Nicaraguans will fight on with or without U.S. aid. They've done so before — American aid has been cut off before. The resistance will continue even if aid is cut off again by Congress, but the intensity of our opposition will decrease. You must remember that the Sandinistas have access to state-of-the-art weapons and they do not have to go through a long debate to get support from the Soviet Union. The Sandinistas do not have to justify before the Soviet people how they make use of their aid. As I mentioned, this is a totalitarian dictatorship being put into place in Nicaragua and it has international ties. Our vulnerability — and our strength — is that we have to plead our case before the public and prove it on its own merits. In an open society, where everything is questioned everywhere — in the press, communities, universities and in Congress — we have to justify the merits of our cause to the American people. It is a weakness because we have no assurance and cannot plan ahead for any length of time. It is also our strength because it shows the rightness of our cause. You must also remember that American security interests are involved. Communism, America's enemy, is in the process of establishing a base in Central America. Your interests and those of the resistance coincide. We are fighting for the liberation of Nicaragua. You should

ART STEIN

take advantage for your own interests of our willingness to fight.

Q. What have you done with the aid to you thus far?

A. Let me make one thing clear about the humanitarian and military aid we receive — we do not get money. We get supplies and they are distributed to the troops so they can go back into Nicaragua and fight.

Q. How would you evaluate the United States as an ally of the Contras?

A. In my country there has always been great admiration for the United States. The general impression that people in Nicaragua have of the United States is that it is a model country. This is especially true of its political system, one that allows for people to grow and develop as individuals, as human beings. Although it has these admirable traits, in an international situation the United States is not such a dependable friend. We feel that U.S. foreign policy is often formulated on the basis of internal policies — politics — not necessarily on the merits of national interest, or what's good for the country. As such, the United States is an undependable ally.

'MARXIST-LENINIST governments must expand in order for them to survive. That is why containment will not work.'

Ernesto Palazio is a Washington representative of the Nicaraguan Resistance. He co-founded the Nicaraguan Democratic Movement in 1978. A lawyer, he organized protests against Nicaraguan dictator Anastasio Somoza and he helped document the corruption of the regime. After the 1979 revolution that toppled Somoza, Palazio was a member of the National Assembly. But like many others, he quickly became disenchanted when the Sandinistas reneged on their promise to establish democracy in his country, and he left Nicaragua in 1986 and joined the Contras.

Q. You have said that if Americans were to see how steadfast the Soviets are as allies of the Sandinistas, then Americans might be persuaded to support the cause of the Democratic Resistance Forces. What did you mean by this?

A. What I meant was simple — nobody wants to join a loser. Everyone wants to join someone who has a chance of winning. Every day, Nicaraguans see tangible evidence of how the Soviets support the Sandinistas. They see the Soviet system being put into place — ration cards, abolition of a free press, state control, etc., and Soviet tanks and helicopters to keep that system in place against the will of the Nicaraguan people, and the constant stream of solidarity missions back and forth between Managua and Moscow. They see the Soviet-bloc countries giving thousands of scholarships to Nicaraguan children. They see attacks upon their churches that grow more frequent each year. They see a totalitarian system being established, which has no comparison with anything they have experienced before. When they see these and other things, they realize that the resistance will not be able to win by itself and they know that outside support is needed. But they ask themselves why they should die without hope, as so many did in the Hungarian Revolution in 1956, when no one came to their aid. I believe that what has been happening during the past seven years in Nicaragua —

'ANYONE who comes back from Nicaragua speaking glowingly of conditions there has not seen the real Nicaragua.'

American support is there, then it isn't and then it's halfway — is the worst thing a superpower can do for itself, its allies and its enemies. You must be a steady ally. The Nicaraguan people don't see the Americans supporting the resistance as solidly as they see the Soviets supporting the Sandinistas.

Q. What risks or reprisals are there in Nicaragua for those caught supporting the Contras?

A. Any form of support is considered treason by the Sandinistas. If you are suspected of such support you can spend 30 years in jail.

Q. Containment is often mentioned as a means of checking Marxist-Leninist expansion throughout Central America and this hemisphere. Do you agree?

A. Marxist-Leninist governments breed a militarized society. They must expand in order to survive and that's why containment is not effective in halting communist expansion.

Q. What policy, then, would you prefer to have the United States follow in its dealings with Nicaragua and Central America?

A. As I have mentioned, containing or isolating communism to Nicaraguan borders will not work. And neither will simply walking away from it and ignoring it. The United States must continue with constant diplomatic and military pressure, and there must be no doubt concerning U.S. resolve to remove communism from the Americas.

Q. What are the criteria for success from the Contra point of view? What is it that the Democratic Resistance must accomplish?

A. First, we must show America that the resistance has the support of the Nicaraguan people and we must effectively point out that support, especially the subtle examples.

So what other ways can you read the people's sympathies in Nicaragua? You have to explain to the American people that you cannot see in Nicaragua those demonstrations that you are now seeing in Panama and Korea. Not allowed, simply not allowed. They are totally repressed. So how do you gauge the feelings of the people? Polls? Polls are prohi-

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REBELS WITH A CAUSE

by Philip C. Clarke

CONCLUDING his testimony before the joint congressional hearing on the Iran-Contra aid operation, Adolfo Calero, director of the United Nicaraguan Resistance, read the following letter:

"I regret that I cannot be with you, but we have almost run out of food and medical supplies. In addition, I have no blankets for my men and winter is only a few months away.

"After four years of fighting one of the world's great powers, our only victory has been to escape total defeat. Even if the rest of the world continues to ignore our cause, we will fight on. For we are fighting not only for ourselves but for all mankind. We are fighting for freedom and human dignity and the right to worship the God of our choice.

"I urge you to tell the world of our plight and to send whatever help you can. God bless you for caring enough to read my letter."

It was signed, George Washington, Valley Forge, Pa. Written in September 1779, the letter was one of several appeals addressed to supporters of the American Revolution during its darkest days.

Though critics may deny it, the parallels between George Washington's ragged band of freedom fighters and the Nicaraguan Contras, or counter-revolutionaries, are unmistakable.

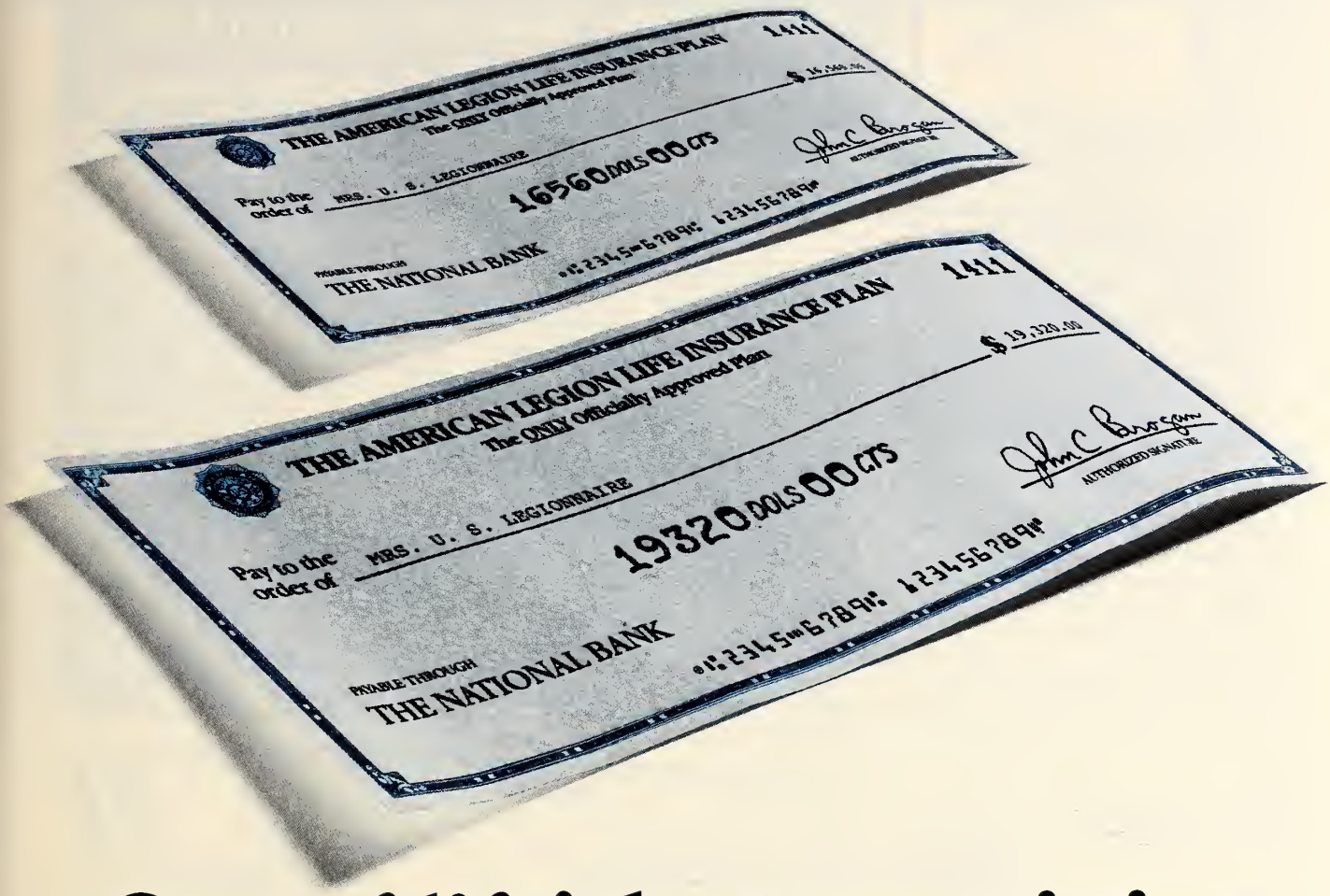
From 1776 through much of 1781, Washington's army, never numbering more than 11,000, lived from hand to mouth. Often they were without meat and bread. Sometimes hundreds of troops had to march barefoot because they had no shoes.

At the Iran-Contra hearings, witnesses testified that the Nicaraguan freedom fighters often were without boots and desperately short of weapons, ammunition and other essential supplies.

In 1779, Washington warned a parsimonious Congress: "... there is every appearance that the Army will infallibly disband in a fortnight." As late as 1781, only a few months before the British surrender at Yorktown, Washington wrote: "... it is vain to think that an Army can be kept together much longer under such a variety of sufferings as ours has experienced."

Indeed, it was the half-hearted support of a fractious Continental Congress that kept America's freedom fighters on the ragged edge of defeat throughout much of our nation's War of Independence. It was the assistance of France, America's lone ally, that finally helped to turn the tide against superior British forces and bring victory.

Today, Nicaragua's freedom fighters, variously estimated to number from 11,000 to 18,000, are in the fifth year of a struggle to liberate their small and impoverished land. As with George Washington's soldiers, the odds against them are formidable. Vastly outnumbered and outgunned by the Marxist-Leninist Sandinistas and their Cuban-trained and Soviet-armed forces — who last year received an estimated $600 million in communist military aid — the Nicaraguan freedom fighters remain dependent for survival on the uncertain support of the U.S. Congress. □



One of life's last remaining bargains just got even better.

The American Legion's officially approved Term Life Insurance Plan announces 2 ADDITIONAL UNITS for more supplemental family protection than ever before.

Millions in verified, audited benefits PAID.

Since 1958, The American Legion Life Insurance Plan has provided millions in much needed benefit dollars to Legionnaires' beneficiaries. Dollars that have provided for countless tuitions, mortgages, funerals, autos, even retirements...extra cash for those times when loved ones need it most. And now, our decreasing term insurance plan has been improved to offer more benefit dollars than ever before.

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One unit, still just $24 per year since 1958, and billed annually, offers up to $11,500 of coverage for Legionnaires under age 30 (25 in Ohio). And now with 2 additional units, 14 in all, a 50 year old Legionnaire can buy more than $35,000 in benefits for only $336 (14 x $24).

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It's easy to apply.

For those Legionnaires under the age of 70, you are invited to apply by completing the information on the following page. Consult the benefit chart, specify the number of units you need and mail with your check or money order for the correct premium amount. Nothing could be easier when you consider all of that protection. Eligibility is subject to the health requirements of the Plan's underwriter.

Exclusions.

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Turn page. Complete the information and mail it now with premium.

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Join the ONLY Officially Approved Plan. Get up to 14 Units. 15% Benefit Bonus.

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PRORATED PREMIUM TO SEND WITH YOUR ENROLLMENT. The premiums shown above are for the balance of 1987 for approved enrollments effective Nov. 1, 1987. Premiums for enrollments effective Dec. 1, or later are proportionately less, by $2 PER UNIT PER MONTH, and any overpayments will be refunded. Premiums accompanying non-approved enrollments will be refunded in full.

EFFECTIVE DATE. Your insurance becomes effective on the first day of the month coinciding with or next following the date your enrollment is received, subject to Insurance Company's approval. Insurance may be maintained in force by payment of premiums when due.

INCONTESTABILITY. Your coverage shall be incontestable after it has been in force during your lifetime for two years from its effective date.

BENEFITS—Yearly Renewable Reducing Term Insurance (Policy Form GPC-5700-781)
Benefits determined by age at death and include 15% SPECIAL INCREASE for deaths occurring during 1987. Maximum coverage limited to 14 units.

Age at Death	14 Units $336 per yr.	12 Units $288 per yr.	10 Units $240 per yr.	8 Units $192 per yr.	6 Units $144 per yr.	4 Units $96 per yr.	2 Units $48 per yr.	1 Unit $24 per yr.
Up thru 29	$161,000	$138,000	$115,000	$92,000	$69,000	$46,000	$23,000	$11,500
30-34	128,800	110,400	92,000	73,600	55,200	36,800	18,400	9,200
35-44	72,450	62,100	51,750	41,400	31,050	20,700	10,350	5,175
45-54	35,420	30,360	25,300	20,240	15,180	10,120	5,060	2,530
55-59	19,320	16,560	13,800	11,040	8,280	5,520	2,760	1,380
60-64	12,880	11,040	9,200	7,360	5,520	3,680	1,840	920
65-69	8,050	6,900	5,750	4,600	3,450	2,300	1,150	575
70-74*	5,313	4,554	3,795	3,036	2,277	1,518	759	379.50
75-Over*	4,025	3,450	2,875	2,300	1,725	1,150	575	287.50
Prorated Premium	**$56**	**$48**	**$40**	**$32**	**$24**	**$16**	**$8**	**$4**

*No persons age 70 or over (including those desiring additional coverage) will be accepted for new insurance.
13, 11, 9, 7, 5 and 3 units also available. Please write for details.

Make check payable to: The American Legion Life Insurance Plan and mail to:
The American Legion Life Insurance Plan
P.O. Box 5609 • Chicago, IL 60680

Plan insured by Transamerica Occidental Life Insurance Company.

Enrollment Subject to Underwriter's Approval

ENROLLMENT CARD FOR YEARLY RENEWABLE TERM LIFE INSURANCE FOR MEMBERS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

Full Name _____ Birth Date _____
Last First Middle Mo. Day Year

Permanent Residence _____
Street City State Zip

Name of Beneficiary _____ Relationship _____
Example: Print "Helen Louise Jones" Not "Mrs. H. L. Jones"

Membership Card No. _____ Year _____ Post No. _____ State _____

I apply for the number of units indicated: ☐

The following representations shall form a basis for the Insurance Company's approval or rejection of this enrollment. Answer all questions.

1. Present occupation? _____ Are you now actively working?
   Yes ☐ No ☐ If no, give reason _____
2. Have you been confined in a hospital within the last year? No ☐ Yes ☐ If yes, give date, length of stay and cause _____
3. During the last five years, have you had heart disease, circulatory disease, kidney disease, liver disease, lung disease, diabetes, or cancer, or have you had or received treatment or medication for high blood pressure or alcoholism?
   No ☐ Yes ☐ If yes, give details _____

I represent that to the best of my knowledge, all statements and answers recorded on this enrollment card are true and complete. I agree that this enrollment card shall be a part of any insurance granted upon it under the policy. I authorize any physician or other person who has attended or examined me, or who may attend or examine me, to disclose or to testify to any knowledge thus acquired.

Dated _____, 19____ Signature of Applicant _____

The American Legion offers this insurance through Transamerica Occidental Life Insurance Company.
Home Office: Los Angeles, California

GMA-300-19 12-79 (Univ.) 51087

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND AUTHORIZATION

I have received and read the Notice of Disclosure of Information at right. Further, I authorize any physician, medical practitioner, hospital, clinic, or other medical or medically related facility, insurance company, the Medical Information Bureau or other organization, institution or person having any records or knowledge of me or of my health to give Transamerica Occidental Life Insurance Company any such information.

A photographic copy of this authorization shall be as valid as the original.

Dated _____, 19____ Signature of Applicant _____

☐ I apply for additional Legion Life Insurance. My present certificate number is _____

NOTICE OF DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION

Information regarding your insurability will be treated as confidential except that **Transamerica Occidental Life Insurance Co.** may make a brief report to the Medical Information Bureau (M.I.B.) a non-profit membership organization of life insurance companies which operates an information exchange on behalf of its members. Upon request by another member insurance company to which you have applied for life or health insurance, or to which a claim is submitted, the M.I.B. will supply such company with the information it may have in its files.

The Company may also release information in its file to its reinsurers and to other life insurance companies to which you may apply for life or health insurance, or to which a claim is submitted.

Upon receipt of a request from you, the M.I.B. will arrange disclosure of any information it may have in your file. Medical information will only be disclosed to your attending physician. If you question the accuracy of information in the Bureau's file you may seek correction in accordance with the procedures set forth in the Federal Fair Credit Reporting Act. The address of the Bureau's information office is P.O. Box 105, Essex Station, Boston, Mass. 02112; Phone (617) 426-3660.

ANAVICUS Perpetuates Bonds Of Friendship With Canadians

SCHOLASTIC ACHIEVEMENT—*Foley (top) presents the 1986 ANAVICUS Scholarship Award to Cadet J.M.S. Dubois of the Royal Military College of Canada. Foley (left) awards the 1987 Rev. Frank L. Harrington Scholarship to Rex J. Renk of Carroll College, Helena, Mont. Attending the presentation are Sister Cara Lee Foley, assistant academic dean of Carroll College, and ANAVICUS Second Vice President Lindsay.*

WHEN a pig owned by a Canadian trading company tore up Lyman Cutler's potato patch, the American settler became extremely annoyed and shot the pig. The incident occurred in the San Juan Islands off the west coast, and erupted into what is sometimes known as the Bloodless War of the Pig.

Thirteen years later, in 1872, the war ended without a shot fired in anger. That was the last time the United States and Canada ever came close to waging war against each other. Throughout the 115 years since then, peaceful relations have maintained a 4,000-mile undefended U.S.-Canadian border, and the Canadians and Americans have fought side-by-side in two world wars.

That spirit of camaraderie and mutual respect has continued to flourish between The American Legion, the largest U.S. veterans organization, and The Army, Navy and Air Force Veterans in Canada. Each year, members of the Canadian group become recipients of The American Legion Friendship Award and a select group of Legionnaires, in turn, are awarded honorary membership in ANAVICUS, The Army, Navy and Air Force Veterans in Canada, U.S. Unit.

Canadian veterans are guests of their U.S. unit twice yearly, once during the Legion's Washington Conference and again at the National Convention.

"In ANAVICUS we hope to perpetuate the close harmony and friendship between veterans of the Legion and Canadian veterans, and to demonstrate that by working closely together we can help further the cause of peace," said Daniel F. Foley, ANAVICUS president. "Of course, we are ever mindful and always grateful to the Canadians who risked their lives to help Americans escape from the clutches of the Ayatollah during the takeover of the U.S. embassy in Iran."

The officers of ANAVICUS are virtually a "Who's Who" in the Legion. In addition to Foley, first vice president is Robert E. L. Eaton; second vice president, William A. Lindsay; chaplain, Rev. Jerome D. Fortenberry; honorary past president and secretary-treasurer, Col. Frank R. Kossa; sergeant-at-arms, Daniel H. Burkhardt; and chaplain emeritus, Rev. Edward J. Carney. ANAVICUS executive committee members include chairman Foley, John H. Geiger, Eaton, Joe L. Matthews, Robert Charles Smith, James M. Wagonseller, Daniel R. O'Sullivan, E. Roy Stone, Kossa and Harry L. Foster.

As ANAVICUS membership expanded over the years and the unit's coffers filled, they began to look at worthwhile projects to support. Under the watchful eyes of fiscally oriented Kossa, they established:

The Harry W. Colmery Memorial, in honor of PNC Colmery's key role in writing the GI Bill of Rights. The memorial is on display in the Legion's National Headquarters, Indianapolis.

The Col. Frank R. Kossa Scholarship and Leadership Award, given each year to an outstanding senior cadet officer of the Indiana Soldiers' and Sailors' Children's Home in Knightstown, Ind.

The Rev. Frank L. Harrington Scholarship, in honor of The American Legion's Past National Chaplain, who was instrumental in bringing the two veterans organizations together. The award is given annually to a deserving sophomore or junior student of Carroll College, Helena, Mont.

The ANAVICUS Scholarship, presented annually to a cadet of the Royal Military College, Kingston, Ont.

Since 1978, ANAVICUS also has sponsored three American and three Canadian youths to Boys State. One of the ANAVICUS projects that drew much media attention was a dinner the unit sponsored for 300 Vietnam veterans in 1968.

But, perhaps, what captures the essence of ANAVICUS most is the annual gatherings in towns and cities along the U.S.-Canadian border when Legionnaires and Canadian veterans unite for Memorial Day services to pay tribute to fallen comrades of both nations. □

OUTFIT REUNIONS

Guidelines—Outfit Reunion notices are published for Legionnaires only and **must be submitted on official forms.** To obtain forms, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: O.R. Form, THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206. Notices should be received at least **seven months** before reunions are scheduled to ensure timely publication.

Army

5th Replacement Dpt. Ctr. (Luzon, PI-1945) (Dec-Oklahoma City) Paul Kelley, Box 50233, Tulsa, OK 74150
8th Inf. Div. Arty., HQ Btry. (WWII) (Oct-Myrtle Beach, SC) James Woolley, Box 3, Love Creek Pk., Lewes, DE 19958 (302) 645-5329
8th Inf. Rgt. (Ft. Screven-WWII) (Mar-Tybee Island, GA) Larry Knecht, 171 N. Shore Terr., Charlotte Harbor, FL 33950 (813) 625-3312
11th Airborne Div. (Western States) (Mar-Fresno, CA) Charles Gunter, 2521 W. Grayville Dr., LaHabra, CA 90631 (213) 943-1436
13th C.A. Assn. (Ft. Barrancas-WWII) (Oct-Pensacola, FL) Max Zoellner, 10520 Lillian Hwy., Pensacola, FL 32506 (904) 455-2088
27th Rgt., B Co., 9th Rgt., K Co., Mortar Co. 31 (1950-52) (Nov.) William Hothan, 513 Lowell Ave., New Hyde Park, NY 11040 (516) 775-3438
55th F.A. Bn. (WWII) (Oct) Philip Noto, 1305 Mitman Rd., Easton, PA 18042 (215) 252-4117
78th Div. (Feb-Venice, FL) Robert Greivell, 1357 Lucaya Ave., Venice, FL 34292 (813) 484-3029
100th Chemical Mtr. Bn., B Co. (Prev. 508th, 637th CA AAA Bns.) (Oct-Port Richey, FL) Jerry Zuzzio, Box 232, Sea Bright, NJ 07760 (201) 842-7254
108th Evac. Hospital (Oct-Kewanee, IL) Elizabeth Fraser, 604 Midland Dr., Kewanee, IL 61443 (309) 856-8181
112th F.A. Assn. (Nov-Trenton, NJ) Nick Chiacchio, 151 Trenton Artillery Armory, Trenton, NJ 08648 (609) 530-4644
148th General Hospital (WWII) (Oct-St. Louis) Loretta Doucette, 59 Joyce St., E. Falmouth, MA 02536 (617) 548-0857
201st Inf./F.A. Assn. (Oct-Morgantown, WV) 201st Inf. F.A. Assn., Box 201, Morgantown, WV 26505 (304) 599-4450
251st CA AA Rgt. (Dec-San Diego) Charles Hamel, 784 Wakefield Ct., El Cajon, CA 92020 (619) 469-8179
278th Rgt. Combat Team (Mar-Gatlinburg, TN) James Arnett Jr., Rt 16, Knoxville, TN 37920 (615) 577-8229
280th & 281st F.A. Bns. (WWII) (Oct.) Joseph Re, 2128 16th Ave., San Francisco, CA 94116 (415) 564-2851
303rd Inf., 97th Div., Anti-Tank Co. (Feb) Fred Kempski, 152 W. 13th St., Deer Park, NY 11729 (516) 667-2952
386th Inf. Rgt., 97th Div., E Co. (WWII) (Feb-Harlingen, TX) Jack Kullin, Rt. 5, Box 222, Harlingen, TX 78550 (512) 423-6799
456th Ord. Evac. (Oct-Disney World, FL) Russell Sinco, 228 N.W. 34th St., #5, Miami, FL 33127 (305) 576-2993
482nd MPEG Co. (Oct-Chicago) Tom Nardi, 222 W. Washington Ave., Clifton Hts. PA 19018 (215) 626-1082
562nd Engr. Boat Maint. Bn., 2nd Engr. Spec. Bde. (Feb-Orlando, FL) James Webster, Box 578, Mount Dora, FL 32757 (904) 383-5537
708th Ord., 8th Div. (WWII) (Feb-Kissimmee, FL) Vic Sabatino, 35 Ewingville Rd., Trenton, NJ 08638 (609) 882-6471
2196th QM Tk. Co. (Feb-Houston, TX) Harold Wheat, 2203 Briarpark, Houston, TX 77042 (713) 781-0344
3014th OBAM Co., 139th OBAM Bn. (WWII) (Oct-Myrtle Beach, SC) Walter Bostick, 1928 Linden Dr., Rockingham, NC 28379 (919) 895-5872

Navy

28th Spec. NCB (Oct-Anaheim, CA) Jimmy Hopkins, Ashland St. Rte., Klamath Falls, OR 97603
40th Seabees, Mobile CB-40 Vietnam/Present (WWII) (Oct-San Francisco) Lyle Bramson, 15 Crane Dr., San Anselmo, CA 94960 (415) 454-1331
CASU (F) 9 (Tacloban-Palawan-WWII) (Dec-Orlando, FL) Chuck Keller, Rt. 3, Box 145, Pearl River, LA 70452 (504) 863-2774
Navy Mats VRS (VR 3,6,7,8,22, Natwingpac) (Nov-Corpus Christi, TX) Monte Umphress, 1348 Hanchett Ave., San Jose, CA 95126 (408) 295-0218
Torpedo Sq. One (Oct-Charleston, SC) G.F. Challet, 3053 Anderson St., Bonita, CA 92002 (619) 479-5022
USS Albemarle CV 5 (Oct-Cleveland) Dr. Hafiz Abood, 4438 Groveland Rd., University Hts., OH 44118 (216) 381-3263
USS Barney DD 149 (Oct-Virginia Beach, VA) Jim Burke, 4 Overbrook Ct., Ormond Beach, FL 32074 (904) 673-3898
USS Coates DE 685 (Oct-Manchester, NH) Charles Katan, 5 Tilden Rd., Danbury, CT 06810 (203) 748-3036
USS Colhoun DD 801 (Mar-Anaheim, CA) Kenneth Arborn, 1500 E. Warren, Sp. 83, Santa Ana, CA 92705 (714) 558-7183
USS Dennis DE 405 (WWII) (Oct-Charleston, SC) John Hines, 122 Winona Pl., Cadillac, MI 49601 (616) 775-5697
USS Gladiator AM 319 (Oct-San Diego) Don Westerlund, 4708 E. Florian Cir., Mesa, AZ 85206 (602) 830-1161
USS Hall DD 583 (Dec-San Diego) Albert Deangelis, 6031 Gullstrand St., San Diego, CA 92122 (619) 453-2879
USS Hammann/Gansevoort DD412/DD608 (Oct-Jacksonville, FL) Wilbur Daley, 701 S. Hall, #6, Algona, IA 50511 (515) 295-2688
USS LCI (L) 213 (Feb-San Diego) W.H. Rigney, 3535-336 Linda Vista Dr., Vista, CA 92083 (619) 727-2018
USS LCT 24 (Sea Wolf) (Jan-Atlantic City, NJ) Steven Muller, 406 Clay Pitts Rd., East Northport, NY 11731 (516) 368-0613
USS LST 75 & 285 (Feb-Metuchen, NJ) William Shivers, 65 Wall St., Metuchen, NJ 08840 (201) 548-2882
USS LST 903 (Feb-LaFeria, TX) Dutch Kretner, E. 1st St., Box 3154, LaFeria, TX 78559 (512) 797-3181
USS Lyman K. Swenson DD 729 (Korea) (Feb-Santa Ana, CA) Robert Davis, 9451 Hyannis Port Dr., Huntington Beach, CA 92646 (714) 968-2650
USS Mack DE 358 (Oct-Norfolk, VA) Cyril Kanoza, 811 Sleepy Hollow Rd., Castle Shannon, PA 15234 (412) 344-4289
USS Matagorda AVP 22 (Oct-Charleston, SC) C.E. Smith, Box 536, Greenville, SC 29602 (803) 271-4618
USS Riddle DE 185 (Oct-Atlantic City, NJ) Russ Mountford, 80 Hoydens Hill Rd., Fairfield, CT 06430 (203) 255-1252
USS Samuel B. Roberts DE 413 (Oct-Annapolis, MD) Robert Harden, 3532 Keswick Rd., Baltimore, MD 21211 (301) 467-9814
USS Schmitt APD 76 (Oct-Greensboro, NC) Kelly Douglass, 411 Trout St., Wilmington, IL 60481 (815) 476-7502
USS Wesson DE 184 (Dec-Philadelphia) Phillip Sanders, Box 1872, Fargo, ND 58107 (701) 235-5202
USS Wiseman DE 667 (Dec.-Washington) Leonard Mitas, Box 1004, Germantown, MD 20874 (301) 428-5351
VP-14 (1943-44) (Feb-New Orleans) James Thompson, 1510 Kabel Dr., New Orleans, LA 70131 (504) 392-1227

Army Air Forces

4th Tow Target Sq. (Nov-Savannah) Lawrence Raynor, Rt. 1, Box 64, Woodcrest Way, Conklin, NY 13748 (607) 775-1274
9th Bomb Grp., 20th A.F. (Oct-Tucson, AZ) Leonard Carpi, 523 E. Oakey Blvd., Las Vegas, NV 89104 (702) 384-5353
62nd AAFBU Air Reserve (Mar-Kingman, AZ) Art Ellico, 1 El Camino Real, Kingman, AZ 86401 (602) 757-8212
315th Bomb Wing Assn. (Oct-San Antonio, TX) Clarence Juett, 3057 Page St., Redwood City, CA 94063 (415) 366-6687
Pilot Cadet AVN Class 43-C (Jan-Washington) Thomas Shotwell, 15123 Concord Dr., Dale City, VA 22193 (703) 670-8992
Stalag Luft IV & VI POWs (WWII) (Oct-Charlotte, NC) Leonard Rose, 8103 E. 50th St., Indianapolis, IN 46226 (317) 546-1860

Air Force

16th SOS (Oct-Ft. Walton Beach, FL) Frank Scafidi, 1212 S. Gemini Rd., Edmond, OK 73034 (405) 340-8853
96th Bomb Grp., 8th AF (WWII) (Oct-Pittsburgh) Thomas Thomas, 1607 E. Willow Ave., Wheaton, IL 60187 (312) 668-0215
450th Bomb Grp. (H), 15th AAF (WWII) (Oct-Colorado Springs, CO) Arnold Daniels, 228 Holley Rd., Sweet Home, OR 97386
1045th OP/EVAL Sq., 1115th MASS (Oct-Ft. Walton Beach, FL) Andy Anderson, Box 596, Ft. Walton Beach, FL 32549 (904) 651-3683
Mustangs to Sweden Ferry Pilots (WWII) (Oct-Seattle) John Crump, 18902 94th West, Edmonds, WA 98020 (206) 776-2662

Marines

Ex-D.I., Parris Island (WWII) (Nov-Parris Island, SC) Tiny Renaker, box 61510, Port Huron, MI 48061 (313) 982-2530
Iwo Jima Survivors (New York) (Jan-New Hyde Park, NY) James Gabriel, 12 Davies Dr., Wappinger Falls, NY 12590 (914) 297-9611
VMD-154 (Oct-Las Vegas, NV) W.E. Bauer, 13227 W. 96th, Lenexa, KS 66215 (913) 888-5477
VMSB-241 (WWII) (Oct-Louisville, KY) Vic Wier, 4843 Woodland Dr., St. Joseph, MI 49085 (616) 429-7914

Coast Guard

Patrol Frigate Crews, USS Grand Forks (WWII) (Nov-San Diego) Curtis Jurgens, 14964 Crosby St., San Leandro, CA 94579 (415) 483-2521
USCG 83490, 8-Ball (WWII) (Mar-New Orleans) Vincent Signorelli, 3110 De Soto St., Upper Apt, New Orleans, LA 70119 (504) 482-8149

Miscellaneous

Iwo Jima Vets Assn. (Feb-Biloxi, MS) John Love, 5511 Spring Mill Rd., Norman, OK 73069 (405) 751-5099

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Robert Schooler (1982), Demitrio Lopez (1983), Mike Canales (1985), Robert Cooney, Harold Edwards, (1987), Post 72, Anaheim, CA
Bernard L. Wottle, (1987) Post 423, San Clemente, CA
George Ruel, Frank Zuraski, (1987), Post 117, Newington, CT
Francis Bujalski, Joseph Myjak, Howard Zoarski, (1987), Post 162, New Haven, CT
R.J. Buck, Donald C. Didier, Nels R. Jorpeland, (1987) Post 108, Chicago, IL
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James W. LaGrande Jr. (1987) Post 286, Pine Hill, NJ
Walter V. Peterson (1962), James H. Hall (1975), David R. Lowe (1976), Joseph S. Kianka (1984), George S. Knudsen (1987), Warren C. Lewis (1987), Edwin F. Lowe, William J. McCreedy, Steve Ruggieri, Salvatore A. Torre (1987) Post 339, Hopewell, NJ
Anthony Dzwonkas, Robert Seegert, Calvin Teachout (1987), Post 26, Clark Mills, NY
Philip Milbauer (1987) Post 209, West End, NY
Harold G. Simoneit, Gerald G. Simoneit (1986), Sidney C. Belile, Garland A. Pagett (1987) Post 527, Hamburg, NY
Elliott S. Russell, R. Thornton Hood, Arthur King, Roland F. Miller, William Ed West (1987) Post 43, Kinston, NC
Carl Maslowski (1976), Edsel R. Anderson (1981) Post 163, Wilton, ND
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Wallace Austin, Ellis D. Dossey, Thomas A. Roach (1987) Post 482, Fort Worth, TX
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Army

3rd Hospital Grp. (Wimpole Park, Eng.) Neil Hadley, 7000 Oak Forest Ln., Bethesda, MD 20817
9th Hospital Ctr. (Heidelberg, Ger. 1963-66) Bill Jordan, 614 Walnut St., Lynn, MA 01905
16th Signal Oper. Bn. Louis Johnston, 4015 W. Sparrow, Orange, TX 77630 (409) 883-7415
17th Station Hospital (Australia, New Guinea) Jean Rogers, 6468 17th Terr. No., St. Petersburg, FL 33710
25th Base Post Office Motorpool (Wurzburg, Ger., 1946-47) Bill Ory, 4877 Bundy Rd., Coloma, MI 49038
57th MP Co. (1950-52) Jack Coleman, Box 101, Crows Landing, CA 95313 (209) 837-4603
62nd General Hospital (Eng. & France) Edward Erlsten, 1700 Elm St., New Cumberland, PA 17070 (717) 774-6199
62nd, 331th AAA (WWII) Eurias Sutton, 411 Hickory Ct., Lansdale, PA 19446 (215) 368-7196
81st Mortar Platoon, Co. H, 38th Inf. 2nd Inf. Div. (1950-52) Bob Sample, Box 16, Beardstown, IL 62618 (217) 323-2710
102nd Signal Bn. (1955-56) Barry Wise, Box 571, Bodega Bay, CA 94923
104th Chemical Proc. Co. (1943-46) Harold Ludwig, 1754 Parktree Ln., St. Louis, MO 63138 (314) 234-9558
117th Chemical Serv. Co. (Africa, Italy-WWII) Norb Stumm, 77 Harding Ave., Kenmore, NY 14217
147th Ord. MVA Co. Vincent Gamble, 3967 N. 6th St., Harrisburg, PA 17110 (717) 334-4123
211th AAA Bn. Robert Kirchner, HC Rt. 61, Box 94, St. Marys, MO 63673 (314) 543-2397
257th Ord. MM Co. Robert Farrell, 1900 Cheryl Ln., Frankfort, IN 46041
272nd Cannon Co., 69th Div., B Btry., 52nd FA Tng. Bn. (Camp Roberts) William Graham, 1811 Golfview Dr., #9, Essexville, MI 48732 (517) 892-6817
288th Signal Co., 3rd Engr. Spec. Brig. Jerry Morgan, 4651 Queen Ave. No., Minneapolis, MN 55412
316th Gen. Hosp. Nurses Corps. (WWII) Carma Mohler, Box 308, Brooklyn, IA 52211
544th Ord. HM Co. (FA) Ernest Case, 6515 Colfax Ave., Lincoln, NE 68507
555th S.A.W. Bn. (1942-45) Jess Jamison, 239 Porter St., Franklin, NC 28734
634th MPEG Howard Funke, 213 N. Main, Box 87, Bridgewater, IA 50837
691st Air Craft Warn. Signal Co. (Anchorage & Kodiak, 1941-43) W.P. Gumm, 4808 Lathrop Ave., Racine, WI 53403 (414) 552-9738
717th Tank Bn. (WWII) Charles Lamarca, 5884 Monica Ln., Garfield Hts., OH 44125
791st MP Bn. (ZI) (WWII) Dwight Netzly, 1237 Lincoln Way E., Massillon, OH 44646 (216) 832-9744
793rd MP Bn. (1945-49) Art Sherokow, Rt. 1, Box 196C, Parsons, TN 38363 (901) 847-6230
1055th Engr. PC&RG (Europe-WWII) Eugene Eversole, 220 Palm Dr., Mulberry, FL 33860 (813) 425-3521
1147th Signal Co., 32nd Air Ser. Grp. (ETO) Bill Heinrichs, 59 Wedgewood Dr., Box 1112, Orange, CT 06477
3257th Signal Serv. Co., 9th Army Herb Krehbiel, 1215 Rivoli Dr., Manchester, MO 63011 (314) 227-5756
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8055 M.A.S.H. (1950-53) Dr. E.J. Hesse, 125 Main, Box 929, LaSalle, CO 80645 (303) 284-6971
A Btry., 482nd AAA AW Bn. (sp) Chuck Gregorovich, 908 Williams St., St. Marys, OH 45885 (419) 394-3548
A Co., 68th Signal Bn. (Camp McCain-WWII), B Co., 92nd Sig. Bn. (ETO) Larry Orechia, 2654 Arcade Rd., Norwalk, OH 44857
A,B,C,D,HQ Btrys., 68th AAA Gun Bn. (1950-52) Leslie Long, Rt. 1, Box 173, Elmwood, WI 54740 (715) 639-6288
B Btry., 220th F.A. Bn., 44th Inf. Div. (WWII) Teddy Patton, 106 Woodlou Ln., Rogers, AR 72756
B Co., 4th Platoon, 180th Inf., 45th Div. Tony Cussimonio Sr., HC Rt. 2, Box 2200, #32, Rosamond, CA 93560
B Co., 544th E.B. & S. R. (WWII) William Jones, 806 Dividing Rd., Severna Park, MD 21146 (301) 647-5489
C Btry., 120th F.A. Bn., 32nd Inf. Div. (WWII) Robert Halbleib Sr., Rt. 3, Box 140-M, Riverside Dr., Chippewa Falls, WI 54729 (715) 382-4479
C Btry., 3rd Bn., 82nd Arty., Americal Div. (1970) James Blaylock, Rt. 9, Box 435, Sparta, TN 38583 (615) 935-8872
C Co., 52nd HQ Grp., 867th F.A. Bn. (1952-54) Charles Holder, 204 S.W. Rose, Des Moines, IA 50315 (515) 288-6363
C Co., 530th QM Bn. (WWII) George Douglas, 410 N. Camden St., Richmond, MO 64085
C Co., 737th Railway Oper. Unit, Transp., 5th Army (WWII) Robert Pierson, 11167 W. Autumn Valley Ln., Frankfort, IL 60423
D Btry., 74th AAA Gun Bn. (WWII) Anthony Capaldo, 601 B Ave. E., Albia, IA 52531 (515) 932-7125
D Co., 36th Engr. Combat Rgt. (WWII) Ben Lacki, 26 Wood St., Pawtucket, RI 02860 (401) 724-8406
F Co., 2nd Bn., 175th Rgt., 29th Inf. Div. William Smith, 710 Mayfair Blvd., Toledo, OH 43612 (419) 476-0539
Ft. Jackson, SC CID (1955-Present) Carl Craig, 2043 Cheltenham Ln., Columbia, SC 29223 (803) 782-2193
G Co., 55th QM Rgt. HM, 882nd Ord. HM Co. (WWII) George Kalina, 8928 N. Mango, Morton Grove, IL 60053
H Co., 38th Inf., 81 M.M. Mtr. Plat., 2nd Inf. Div. (1950-52) Robert Sample, Box 16, Beardstown, IL 62618 (217) 323-2710
HQ, 63rd Ord. Grp. (Cp. Shelby & Okinawa) Joe Ostronic, 7002 Crestlake Dr., Orlando, FL 32819 (305) 351-0997
Med. Detach., 3rd Bn., 123rd Inf. Rgt., 33rd Div. (WWII) Jim Kerr, Box 181, Ft. Inn, SC 29644 (803) 967-7505
U.S. Forces (Austria, 1946-56) Bill Billet, Box 206, Red Lion, PA 17356

Navy

611th NCBMU (WWII) Allan Kindseth, 1301 Spring Rd., Faribault, MN 55021
Acorn 38 (Saipan) Frank Fink, 34 Southgate Rd., Mt. Laurel, NJ 08054
Band 51, USS Enterprise CV 6 Wilton Syckes, 226 E. Hartford Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85022 (602) 942-5800
Base Hospital 15, Base Medical (Manus Island) M.R. Cook, Box 853, Laurens, SC 29360 (803) 984-4466

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PRESENT DANGER

Continued from page 41

to dominate Nicaragua, but to let Nicaragua freely pursue democratic reform.

Q. Many people believe communist expansion can be stopped only by U.S. armed forces. Is that true?

A. No. Soviet influence in foreign areas, including Central America, is always limited to what the traffic will bear — the extent of U.S. tolerance. The Soviet Union, however, isn't prone to send its own armed forces into action abroad because, unless Soviet armies are there, the United States rarely believes it's necessary to oppose totalitarian forces. The Soviets' aim is not to force us into real military conflict if they can help it. They want to take over these countries piecemeal by political methods. But there are plenty of non-totalitarian people who, if given moral support, money and opportunity to purchase arms, will fight against the totalitarian systems.

If we completely emasculate the resistance fighters and make it impossible for them to work against their totalitarian governments, U.S. military force will be necessary.

Q. If the real battle for Nicaragua is being fought right here in this country, as some people say, what can be done to convince the public and Congress to support the Contras?

A. I agree the crucial battle is in the United States, particularly in Washington, D.C. North Vietnam made that same discovery and quit worrying about winning battles in Vietnam. They kept up the fighting with the belief that divided public opinion eventually would force the United States to withdraw — which it did. Now, I don't want to fight Vietnam over again, but I see the lessons of Vietnam being used by strategic planners in communist states everywhere in the world. They say, "Don't worry about the situation on the battlefield too much, but get the United States divided in its opinion about its own strategic interests and then undermine the support for any non-communist group that opposes our success."

That is what is happening in Nicaragua. The Sandinistas had quite a field day for several years in sweet-talking congressmen and journalists into believing they were good people.

The Sandinista government is brutal and despicable in suppressing human rights and freedoms, shutting down reputable press institutions, and trying to prevent church leaders from speaking to their parishioners. It is a classic Marxist-Leninist dictatorship.

We have made some gains. Gradually over the years, Congress came to accept that the Sandinista government is a threat to the United States. Then we began to argue about the price we had to pay to help the democratic resistance in Nicaragua.

That is where we stand now. I think we must tell the public over and over again why the Sandinista government is not only bad for its own people, but also for all people in this hemisphere. If we keep repeating that message, the reasons why we ought to support the Contras in opposing this kind of government will become more apparent.

We are losing the propaganda war right here in the nation's capital because we don't have the organizations dedicated to fight it. Yet, there are a lot of foreign embassies and foreign intelligence services here lobbying on behalf of the Sandinistas. We should counter this communist propaganda with acade-

Please turn to page 54

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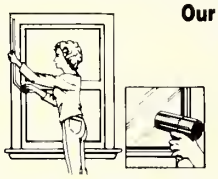

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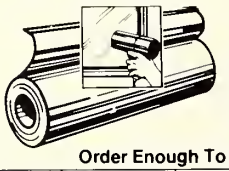

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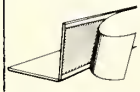

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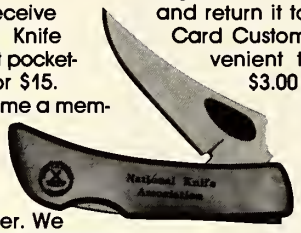

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PRESENT DANGER

Continued from page 52

micians and journalists who are dedicated to telling the truth. That is the only defense.

Q. How do we get the media to report about the Sandinistas' suppression of freedom in Nicaragua?

A. I don't know. The media today tend to be very insistent on their own rights, but not very persistent in reporting news about the oppression of people in communist countries. There is a tendency to have a double standard, a feeling that it is "natural" for a communist government to shut down the press. They mention it, but they concentrate instead on the inequities of democratic countries. I am afraid our American media are inclined — and again you can't generalize — to treat lightly reports about the brutality of communist dictatorships, whereas they all too frequently sensationalize the weaknesses of democratic societies, particularly our own.

Q. Has the Iran-Contra hearing seriously hurt the Contra cause?

A. I am reluctantly persuaded that this is true. I think the preoccupation with details of secret operations and government decisions about Iran and Nicaragua — which were perhaps misguided and certainly not successful — has caused people to lose sight of the administration's worthy objectives in trying to help the Contras. Legitimate criticism of government mismanagement or errors has become a victim of sensationalism. It amounts to throwing the strategic baby out with the operational bath water. I hope it's a mistake that will be reversed. But right now it seems to me that the National Security Council's handling of the Contra arms deal has resulted in public feeling that somehow the United States shouldn't be doing what it was doing. My view is that what it was doing was right. The way it was doing it was perhaps wrong, but we should correct the way and do it right. ☐

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STEADY ALLY

Continued from page 46

bited by law. Voting is out of the question, of course. So how? One way is to take into account the thousands of refugees who have left that country. The majority were poor people and they demonstrated where their sympathies are by voting with their feet. And when you read accounts that the Sandinistas are forcibly removing thousands of peasants "in order to protect them" from the battlefields, you must be able to read between the lines. The truth is that they are removing those people because they support us. They give us food, support and information. So I believe it's important for Americans to know that we have the popular support of the Nicaraguan people.

Q. How soon can Americans expect concrete results from Contra efforts?

A. We have had results; we have won military victories; we have won the support of the people. The problem is that the Soviets know what to expect from liberation wars; they are patient; they are steady supporters; they are willing to wait, knowing that in the end the fruit will drop into their lap. You Americans want instant results. The Soviets supported the Sandinistas for 18 years, at the end of which they had 3,000 fighters at most. We have been fighting for six years, during which American aid has been on and off at various times, and in spite of such erratic aid, we currently have between 15,000 and 20,000 fighters... isn't that success?

You will have to come up with some kind of policy to oppose these wars of liberation, and Nicaragua could be a test case. It is, in fact, the logical scenario where the United States would win by helping Nicaraguans help themselves. You have everything on your side. You have geography, you have the people, you have the insurgency, you have the neighbors willing to help, you have the right conditions. Now is the time, and Nicaragua is the place where America can win against the Soviets.

Q. Why do you think so many Americans, including politicians and church leaders, return from Nicaragua with glowing reports about the reforms taking place under the Sandinistas?

A. My only answer to that is that these people went to Nicaragua to

Please turn to page 58

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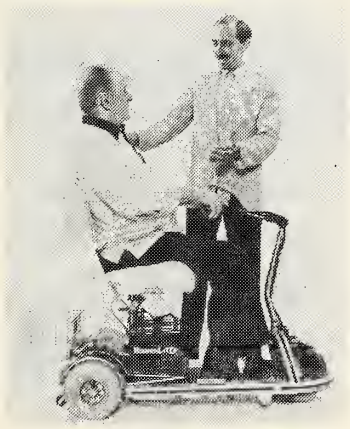

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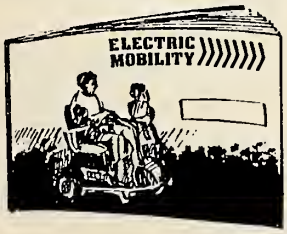

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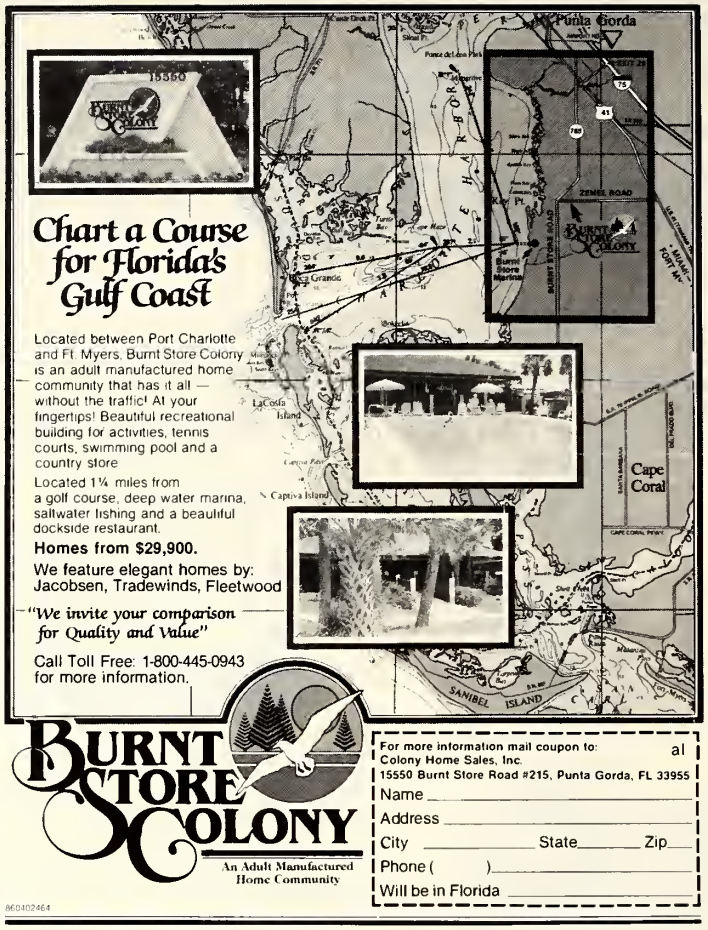

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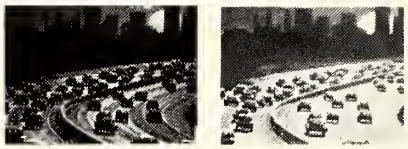

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STEADY ALLY

Continued from page 56

see only what they wanted to see — anything that would support their preconceived ideas. Anyone who comes back from Nicaragua speaking glowingly did not want to see the real Nicaragua. They have not seen freedoms repressed, nor jails crammed with political prisoners.

Q. Suppose the Contra movement fails. What happens then?

A. Marxist-Leninist power will have been consolidated in Nicaragua, and our defeat will send signals to the rest of Latin America that any leftist group can seize power there and get away with it. If our efforts fail, it may also show the world that the Soviets are better allies than Americans, or certainly more steadfast. The loss of American prestige would be tremendous — another Bay of Pigs only on a larger scale. I think the Sandinistas would feel extremely secure in increasing their efforts to export communist revolution. They always have said their aim is to establish 100 Vietnams. If Nicaraguan freedom fighters do not prevail, the United States will have suffered a serious ideological and strategic setback because it will show that it cannot defeat communism in its own back yard, it will lay bare the Pacific region and west coast of America to Soviet intelligence flights such as those being conducted by Cuba on the east coast, and it will allow Nicaragua to service Soviet aims in the area.

Q. Will the crisis in Central America result in the commitment of U.S. troops?

A. The Nicaraguan people are willing to fight for their own country, to liberate their country, to establish democracy. We are willing to fight — to shed our own blood — we ask only that you give us the tools to win our common victory. I believe that if U.S. aid is cut off to the resistance, American troops will come a step closer to being deployed. □

The Nicaraguan Resistance (USA office) is registered with the U.S. Justice Department as a foreign agent operating in the United States. Those wishing to contribute to the resistance or seeking additional information should write to the Nicaraguan Resistance (USA office), 2603 Connecticut Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20008, or call (202) 328-1133/35.

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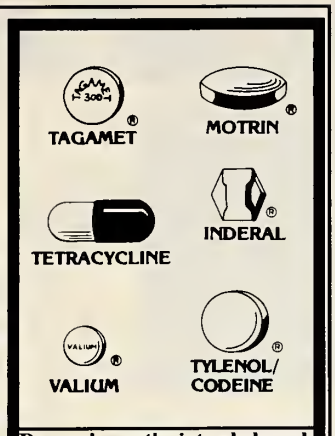

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(Atlanta, GA)

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Do You Know the Answers to These Questions about Prescription Drugs?

When your busy doctor gives you a prescription, what do you, or even your doctor know about it? What's it for? Will you be allergic to it? What are its side effects and dangers? Will it affect other medicine you're taking?

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HEART TROUBLE

Continued from page 12

tant to do anything about it.

The two issues are tied together, Borer said. Most Americans now know that a heavy, continuing pain in the chest is a signal of a heart attack. The unfortunate part of that knowledge is that most people will ignore symptoms that doctors regard as significant. The "cement-sack-on-the-chest" feeling occurs in about half of all heart attacks, Borer said. In others, the symptoms are subtle and easy to ignore.

"People who have never had symptoms before and are in good health try to ignore them," said Dr. Edwin L. Alderman of the Stanford University Medical Center in California. "The problem is that, typically, people want to avoid calling a doctor, particularly in the middle of the night, and don't want to go to emergency rooms."

"The key part here," said Borer, "is that there really is no single textbook symptom that should be suggested as the thing to look for, because we always tend to think wishfully that there's nothing to worry about.

"The types of symptoms that one would worry about would involve any unusual sensation in the chest, shoulders, back or arm that is reproducibly brought on by some kind of stressful activity and that goes away with the cessation of the stress or by resting," Borer said. "You notice I didn't use the word 'pain.' People tend to think that what they regard as pain has to occur in order for there to be a problem."

Alderman described the symptoms a little differently. "Most people feel it as chest pressure or chest discomfort that persists," he said. "It doesn't go away from a change of posture, sitting up or lying down. A person might also feel uneasy, a bit sweaty. Sometimes the feeling waxes and wanes."

What do you do when such symptoms occur? Call for help. "Act immediately," said the American Heart Association. "Call the emergency rescue service. If you can get to a hospital faster by car, have someone drive you."

Or do what Leonard Goldstein did — call your doctor. Better yet, said Borer, go to a hospital emergency room and call your doctor from there.

Increasingly, medical centers are setting up for fast treatment of heart

Please turn to page 62

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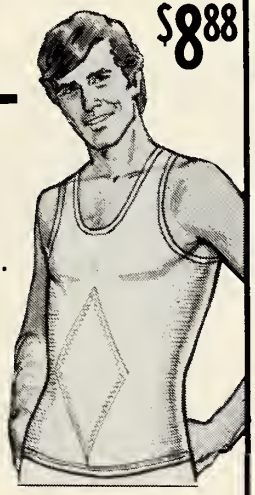

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HEART TROUBLE

Continued from page 60

attack patients. Duke University and the University of Michigan are among those with highly organized regional programs to identify patients and get them quickly into clot-dissolving therapy. Stanford just set up a regional drive aimed at community hospitals and doctors outside the major suburbs of San Francisco. The program includes helicopter transportation to bring patients at highest risk to the Stanford Medical Center for clot-dissolving treatment.

But it is always the patient, a spouse or a friend who has to call for help to set the medical machinery in motion. "It's a question of patient education," said Dr. Hiltrud Mueller, the cardiologist in charge of TPA therapy at Montefiore Medical Center in New York.

You might think that cardiologists are worried that such a broad list of symptoms might unleash a flood of hypochondriacs on the nation's emergency rooms. It isn't so, said Borer.

"I'm not concerned about asking too often," he said. "I'm concerned with asking too seldom." □

COMRADES IN DISTRESS

Readers who can help these veterans are urged to do so. Usually an eyewitness statement is needed in support of a VA claim.

Notices are run only at the request of American Legion Service Officers representing claimants, using Search for Witness Forms available only from State Legion Service Officers. Please contact CID (number). The American Legion Magazine, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206

25th QM Corps. Frank Buntin needs witnesses to verify a claim that while stationed at Kanocka Barracks, Japan in Aug/Sept 1946, he injured his knees and back in a truck/train accident. Contact CID 1123

SLCU 32, USS LST 803 Crystal L. Gold needs witnesses to verify a claim that while stationed at Turner City, FL in 1944, he suffered from fungus of the ears and while aboard ship in 1951, he suffered from stomach problems and dislocated left elbow. Contact CID 1124

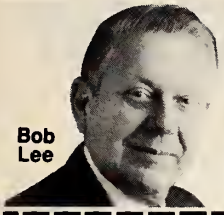
USS Midway Floyd Louis Schwandt needs witnesses to verify a claim that while stationed at Norfolk, Memphis, San Diego and aboard the USS Keosengua during 1948-1957, he suffered loss of hearing due to job as machinist mate. Contact CID 1125

USS Colhoun APD 2 Kenneth R. Given needs witnesses to verify a claim that while stationed at the Solomon Islands in Aug. 1942, he suffered ear/nerve damage from discharge of I gun and bombing and sinking of ship. Contact CID 1126

2nd Plt., 311th Port Co., 510th Bn. Cyril A. Barrett needs witnesses to verify a claim that during the invasion of Marianna Islands in July 1944, he was knocked off of a weapons carrier from an explosion and suffered blackouts. Contact CID 1127

230th QM Salvage Co. August Giordano needs witnesses to verify a claim that while stationed at Algeria and Naples in 1943-45, he was treated for malaria, hypertension, jaundice and a liver disorder. he also injured his right leg and finger. Contact CID 1128

H-5-3 Donald Reno DiSantis needs witnesses to verify a claim that while stationed at Ft. Ord, CA on Jan. 10, 1974, his emotional stability was aggravated. Contact CID 1129



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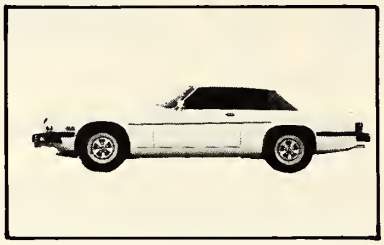

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VETERANS ALERT

Continued from page 51

Ceremonial Guard, Washington, DC (1952-55) Harold Judge, Rt. 1, Woodland Acres, Long Grove, IA 52756 (319) 285-4057

Co. 19, Nav. Radio Sch., Univ. of CO (Feb. 1944) Mel Perez, 6251 Forest Bend, San Antonio, TX 78240 (512) 684-4499

Pami-Conus NTC (Bainbridge, MD-1965-69) George Reese Jr., 225 Upper Valley Rd., No. Wales, PA 19454 (215) 699-7305

Platoon 1, 1937 N.T.C. (Norfolk, VA) Clarence Nichols, Box 125, Falling Waters, WV 25419 (304) 274-3337

Spec. Augmented Hosp. 8 (Okinawa-1945) Clarence Rhines, 140 S. Main St., O'Fallon, IL 62269 (618) 632-5838

Treasure Island Post Office (1943-46) Clancy Ellis, 1911 15th Ave., Lewiston, ID 83501 (208) 743-2970

USN Trng. Ctr., S.M. Class 10-B-45 (Bainbridge, MD-July 6, 1945) John Hart, 425 E. Ferguson, Blackwell, OK 74631 (405) 363-1974

USS A.E. Anderson TAP 111 (1956-58), Hooper Island ARG 17 (1952-55) James Guiden, 9424 N. Alma Ave., Portland, OR 97203 (503) 286-4096

USS Andromeda AKA 15, Radiomen (1951-55) William Baize, Box 310, Lewisport, KY 42351 (502) 295-6897

USS Anne Arundal AP 76 Sam Haines, Box 62, Rumbley Star Rt., Westover, MD 21871 (301) 651-3148

USS Anthedon AS 24 (WWII) Carl Kay, 207 N. 11th St., Keokuk, IA 52632

USS Blue Ridge AGC 2 (1943-45) Michael Geary, 2703 E. Towers Dr. #308, Cincinnati, OH 45238 (513) 451-2609

USS Bouge CVE 9, Badger, Belknap, Clemson, Dupont, Greene, Osmond Ingram DD 255 Robert Hale, 7101 Pierce St., Arvada, CO 80003 (303) 422-2982

USS Cabana DE 260 Thomas Hogan, 338 Canisteo St., Hornell, N Y 14843 (607) 324- 5025

USS Caravan AM 157 Chester Wawrzyn, 6511 N. 85th St., Milwaukee, WI 53224

USS Carroll DE 171 Robert Heber, 1513 S. 13th St., Niles, MI 49120 (616) 684- 3406

USS Clemson APD 31 Fred Haag, 92 E. Steuben, Pittsburgh, PA 15205 (412) 921- 5425

USS Edmonds DE 406 (1953-56) Gary Cortner, 7 Maple Ave., Chelmsford, MA 01824

USS Everglades AD 24 William Ropp, 608 3rd Ave., Patton, PA 16668

USS George K. MacKenzie DD 836 (Westpac-1971-72) James House, 205 1/2 W. Monroe, Mt. Pleasant, IA 52641 (319) 385-3009

USS Heywood APA 6 Jim Young, 1315 Lee St. #1, Commerce, TX 75428

USS Hunterdon County LST 838 (Vietnam) Jim Edwards, Box 115, Staples, MN 56479

USS Kankakee AO 39 Harry Fillman, 100 Brookfield Dr., Dover, DE 19901 (302) 697-2828

USS Kretchmer DE 329 (WWII) Dwane Robinson, 1032 Whildin St., Emporia, KS 66801 (316) 342-7305

USS LCI (L) (R) 1029 (WWII) Donald Kearns, Rt. 2, Box 9162, Milford, PA 18337 (717) 296-8772

USS LCI 786 (WWII) Carl Knox, 1509 W. Poplar St., Rogers, AR 72757

USS Long Island AUG 1 Dick Wisch, 1333 Ruger Ave., Janesville, WI 53545

USS Long Island CVE 1 Peter Price, 12144 W. Vernona Ct., West Allis, WI 53227 (414) 541-4873

USS LSM 115 Robert Morris, 355 Greenbrier Rd., Sunbury, OH 43074 (614) 965-1199

USS LSM 38 George Taylor, 1387 Friar Ln., Columbus, OH 43221

USS LSM 85 (WWII) Lawrence Santini, 1620 W. Jefferson, Joliet, IL 60436

USS LST 654 (WWII) William Sponburgh, 5354 Harriet Pl., W. Palm Beach, FL 33407 (305) 683-6847

USS LST 667 (WWII) Burle Whorrall, 104 Elmbrook Dr., Manlius, NY 13104

USS LST 752 Francis Elsen, 2918 Robinhood Dr., LaCrosse, WI 54601

USS Massey DD 778 (1944) Jack Zagaros, 3656 Newton Ave. No., Minneapolis, MN 55412 (612) 529-5840

USS Merrimac AO 37 William Combs, 4663 Elmont Dr., Cincinnati, OH 45245 (513) 528-3119

USS Metivier DE 582 Dick MacDonald, Box 582, Malden, MA 02148 (617) 665-2140

USS PC 1131, USS AFD 12 Lawrence Clark, Box 203, Cochrane, WI 54622 (608) 248- 2783

USS PC 1262 (WWII) Ed Manning, Rt. 4, Box 200, Opelka, AL 36801 (205) 745-3039

USS Rawlins APA 226 G. Winn, 4919 W. Pico #119, Los Angeles, CA 90019 (213) 735-9044

Please turn to page 66

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VETERANS ALERT

Continued from page 64

USS Salem CA 139 Robert Daniels, 8327 Warrington Dr., Indianapolis, IN 46234 (317) 271-6850
USS Sierra AO 18 (WWII) Fred McCleaf, 319 W. 4th st., Waynesboro, PA 17268 (717) 762-6112
USS Stevens DD 479 (WWII) Richard Bond, Box 25, Newark, OH 43055 (614) 345-1041
USS Undaunted ATO 58 (WWII) George Barrett, 321 S.E. 3rd St., Bldg. G, #302, Dania, FL 33004 (305) 925-3030 MD 20770
USS Wisconsin BB 64 7506 Eastmoor Ct., Tampa, FL 33615
USS YMS 459 George Austin, 531 48th St. No., St. Petersburg, FL 33713 (813) 321-5023
VC 20 Paul Ritz, 220 Aspen Ln., Lititz, PA 17543 (717) 626-7401

Army Air Forces

40th Bomb Sq., 13th Bomb Grp., 856th Bomb Sq. Sam Giordano, 7020 Oakley St., Philadelphia, PA 19111
313th Ftr. Sq., 50th Ftr. Grp. (WWII) George Condern, 4510 Gorc Way, Reno, NV 89502
360th Air Serv. Grp. (Gunnery Instructors) Guy Conn, 8837 N. 104th Ave., Peoria, AZ 85345
400th Sq., 90th Bomb Grp. (Jolly Rogers) Henry Volkman, 3535 Oxwed Ct., Westminster, MD 21157
556th Strat. Missile Sq. Bruce Raleigh, 12441 Longtin, Southgate, MI 48195
572nd Bomb Sq., 391st Bomb Grp. (WWII) Duryea Warn, 2133 6th St., Ceres, CA 95307
Pilot Class 43-A-1 (Mather Field) Wallace Linn Jr., 2300 Nacogdoches Rd. #232I, San Antonio, TX 78209 (512) 828-1277

Air Force

Med. Detach., MacDill AFB (1943-45) Pete Newhouse Jr., 401 Court St., Little Valley, NY 14755
Phu Cat Air Base RVN (All Units & Years) John Forgette, 2400 Donovan Ave. #73, Bellingham, WA 98225

Marines

10th Defense Bn. (Solomon, Marshall Islands-WWII) Glen Potts, 1009 Evans, Des Moines, IA 50315
B Btry., 1st Bn., 11th Mar., 1st Mar. Div. (Okinawa) Wallace Barlow, 113 Race St., Sugar Grove, PA 16350
Marine Detach., USS San Francisco CA 38 Victor Yambor, 8142 Vincent Ave. So., Bloomington, MN 55431 (612) 888-2062
Ord. Co., 2nd Mar. Div. (WWII) Donald Scroggins, 1708 Liberty St., Parkersburg, WV 26101 (304) 428-1390
Platoon 133, Parris Island (1948) Joe Brancati, 39 Roxton Rd., Plainview, NY 11803 (516) 681-1879
USS Wilkes-Barre CL 103 (Marine Detach.) Joe Rimar, 6R Hillside Rd., Greenbelt,
VMB 612 Dvan Roberts, 6216 N. Clark Ave., Tampa, FL 33614 (813) 885-4619
VMF 217 (WWII) Chester Brodlo, 2922 Princeton, Chicago, IL 60616

Coast Guard

Mtd. Beach Patrol, Harvey Cedars Station Carl James, 421 Baldwin Dr., Lancaster, OH 43130 (614) 653-1028
USS Leonard Wood APA 12 (Navy Included) Dean Goranson, Rt. 6, Box 273, Angola, IN 46703 (219) 665-2690
USS LST 762 Charles Quilico, 914 Caswell St., Ft. Atkinson, WI 53538
USS LST 789 (So. Pacific-WWII) Peter Krustapentus, 623 Pequoig Ave., Athol, MA 01331 (617) 249-8366
USS LST 791 James Morley, 718 N. 2nd St., LaCrescent, MN 55947 (507) 895-2847
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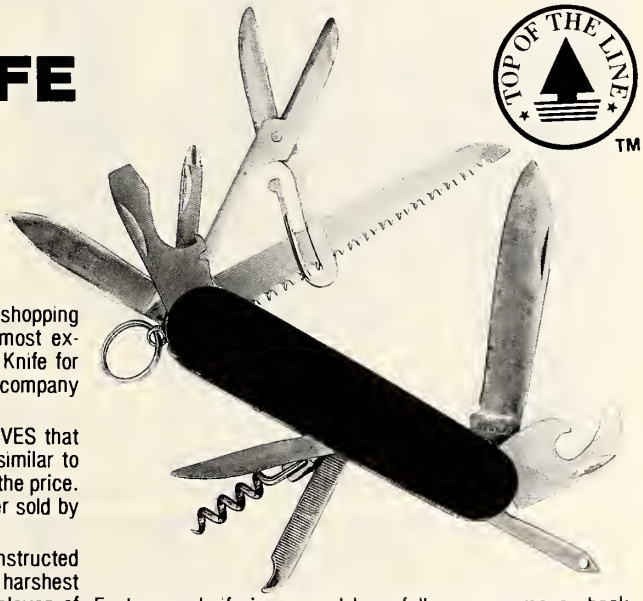

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JOHN P. COMER

Continued from page 22

1975-76, when he was department commander, and has served as chairman ever since. He was elected vice president three years ago. For volunteer work in his community, he has received numerous distinguished-service awards from the South Shore Mental Health Center, and has been recognized for work in programs to aid battered women and children. Also, Comer is a member of the Quincy Council on Aging and the Human Rights Council.

Comer's commitment to the Legion has been equally tireless. He served on the National Economics Commission, the National Legislative Council and the Americanism Commission, and has held liaison positions with the National Finance, Foreign Relations and Americanism commissions, as well as the subcommittee on resolutions.

Comer attended Bentley School of Accounting and Lee Institute of Real Estate Brokerage. He currently is executive director of the Housing Authority in his hometown of Quincy, a position he has held the past five years. The Quincy Housing Authority is the ninth-largest in Massachusetts, with 2,300 units of elderly and family low-income housing. Comer spent 12 years on the Quincy Board of Assessors and two years as an administrative assistant on the budget staff of the House Ways and Means Committee of Boston.

"None of the things I have done could have been accomplished without the support of my family," Comer said. Indeed, his wife Eileen is a member of the Auxiliary at Comer's post; his daughters Margaret Hughes and Nancy Zagrodny also are Auxiliary members, and Comer's son John and grandson Sean Hughes are members of the Sons of The American Legion.

In a recent interview with THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE, Comer discussed several topics of concern to the Legion. The following are excerpts from that interview.

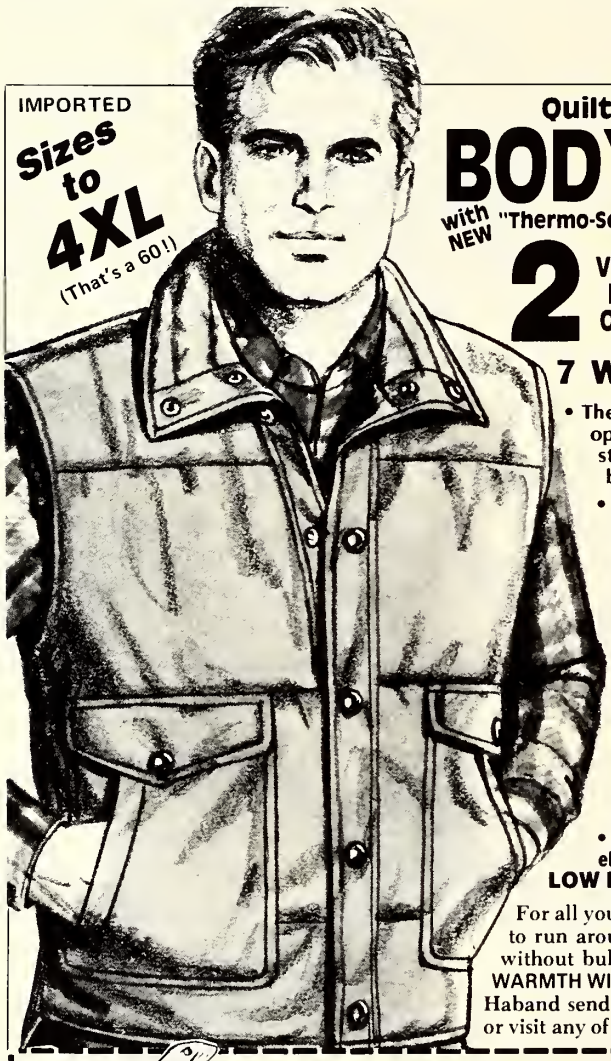
MEMBERSHIP: "This year, more than 2.8 million veterans are Legionnaires, a number that hasn't been achieved since the early days of the Korean War. We continue to grow because of the hard work performed by Legionnaires who tell the public who we are and what we stand for.

"The key to achieving 3 million members is post outreach at the community level. But that membership mark can be maintained only by the one-on-one recruiting and personal contact by individual Legionnaires at our 16,000 posts. These are the people who must tell new and prospective members what the Legion has to offer them."

NATIONAL DEFENSE: "For those who doubt the need for a strong national defense, I suggest they look at Afghanistan, where more than a million innocents have been slaughtered since the 1979 invasion. Look at Angola, where Cuban troops have fine-tuned the combat skills they learned from Soviet military advisers. Look at the Middle East, where terrorism rivals oil as that region's chief export. Look at Central America, where the Soviets are trying to build an outpost in the hemisphere.

"A solid national defense demands that we keep abreast of changes in technology. This is especially true in a world where strategic stockpiles are growing. The Legion consistently has backed full funding for the Strategic Defense Initiative, which can provide a realistic shield against nuclear attack."

FOREIGN AFFAIRS: "I had the opportunity to travel to Central America



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last summer as a member of PCAG. There is no doubt in my mind that Central America and its problems should be at the forefront of U.S. foreign-policy concerns.

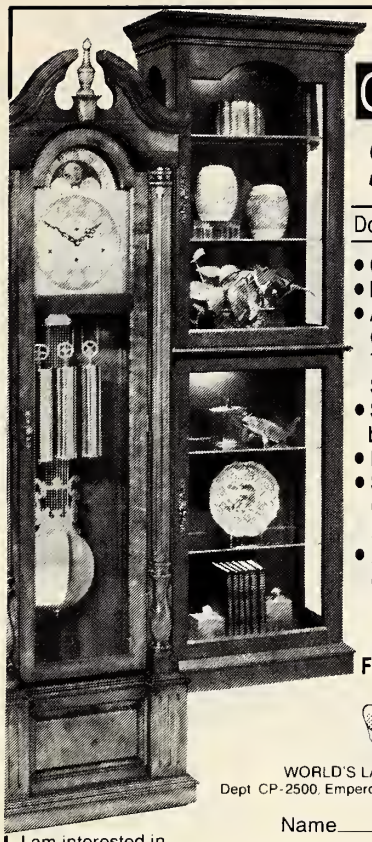
"U.S. security is seriously threatened by communist expansion in that region via the Soviet-backed Sandinista regime in Nicaragua. But an equal or perhaps even larger problem is our inconsistent policy toward Central America. It is imperative that the United States fully implement a comprehensive, two-track, bipartisan policy in Central America.

POW/MIAs: "We will never rest until this tragic issue is settled and all of our men are accounted for. Progress in learning their fates from the Vietnamese government has been slow, but I am more optimistic now, especially because of a report by retired Army Gen. John W. Vessey Jr., who returned in August from a fact-finding trip to Southeast Asia. According to that report, the Vietnamese have agreed to speed up the accounting of missing U.S. servicemen. We'll also begin concentrating on the whereabouts of 8,000 POW/MIAs from the Korean War."

WOMEN VETERANS: "During the past several years, vast improvements have been made by VA in providing adequate and timely health care to women veterans, and the Legion will continue to work and bring these about. Women always have played an integral role in our military services, and that's something the Legion long has recognized. One of the more important projects now under way is the Vietnam Women's Memorial Project, which, when approved, will allow a richly deserved statue to be erected alongside the Vietnam War Memorial statue in Washington."

VETERANS' BENEFITS: "The Legion will continue to monitor VA programs and services, especially proposed changes that would limit health-care benefits and other entitlements. Under legislation adopted last year, some veterans are required to pay for part of the health care they receive, thus changing a veterans'-benefits program that always has had the overwhelming support of the American people. The Legion has protested these changes and charged that most veterans who seek care are the oldest, sickest and poorest of the veteran population. The first 12 months of the means-test experience have proved overwhelmingly that the Legion was correct in its estimate. We will now ask Congress to review the need for these burdensome regulations. Our organization also is working to obtain sufficient funding to enable the

Please turn to page 70



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JOHN P. COMER

Continued from page 69

VA to administer its benefits programs in timely fashion.

"Another serious threat to veterans is the proposal to turn public employment service over to the states. When I was department commander, we went to the Supreme Court over this same issue. Employment service is the cornerstone of the federal government's program to help veterans find jobs. The Legion is against the proposal, which would allow the states to decide for themselves whether to continue employment service programs. That is one element of a trend toward the erosion of veterans' preference throughout the United States, which we as an organization will need to counter."

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Strength, commitment and family are just three of the spiritual companions Nat'l Cmdr. John P. "Jake" Comer will take with him as he travels the highways and skyways of America and other nations during his year at the helm of The American Legion.

"Before my election, I traveled to 51 departments, and I intend to do the same or better this year," he said. "I want to reach as many Legionnaires as possible and take the Legion name and its many ideals and concerns to other Americans as well."

Those concerns and ideals that Comer will take with him are the same that have bound the Legion family together for nearly seven decades: concern for those who have served the nation, love of family and of country, and helping those less fortunate than ourselves. "But none of these things is unique to The American Legion," Comer said. "They always have been the guideposts of conscience for all Americans." □

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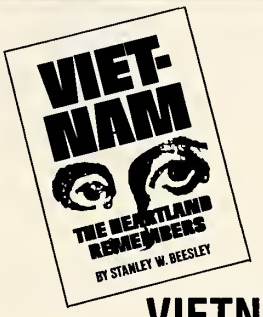

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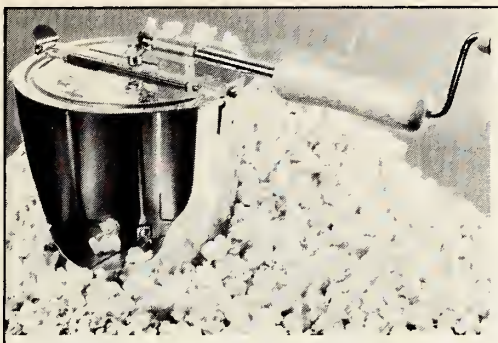

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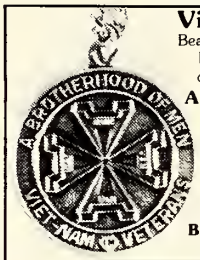

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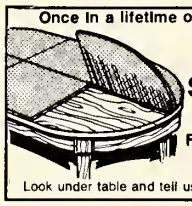

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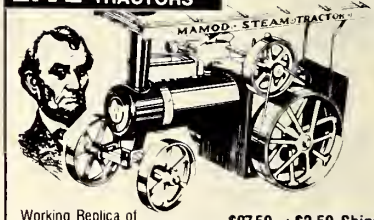

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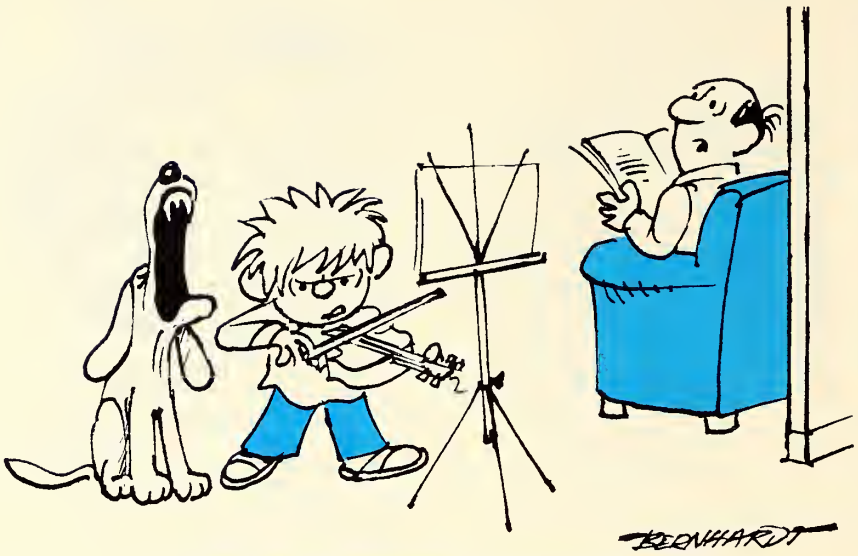

"Can't you play something the dog doesn't know?"

A Personal High

A young woman meant to call a record shop, but dialed the wrong number and got a private residence. "Do you have 'Eyes of Blue' and 'Love That's Real'?" she asked.

"Well, no," replied the puzzled homeowner, "but I do have a wife and 11 children."

"Is that a record?" asked the woman.

"I don't think so," replied the man, "but it's as close as I want to get."

—Ralph Widener

Let's Face It

Overheard at a party: "It's not that I don't have complete confidence in Karen; I can look at her and know I can trust both her faces."

—A. L. Arnold

Curve Or Straight-away?

Little Jerry was bragging about how fast his father's car could go: "125 miles per hour, and dad has it in writing from the highway patrol," he added.

—Paul Short

Justice Is Blind

A judge was having lunch with a pal who said, "I understand you fined Mrs. Jones $500. Is she appealing?"

"She sure is," replied the judge, "but I couldn't let that affect me."

—R. M. Grady

Sharing The Heating Bill

The funeral procession was en route to the cemetery when a coal truck eased into the line. One of the men in the car just behind the truck said, "I always knew where old Joe was headed, but I never thought he'd have to supply his own fuel."

—Robert Sasserath

Diagnosis

The mechanic examined the old car carefully and rendered his verdict: "Keep the oil and change the car."

—Gene Whitman

A Change Of Heart

Asked to put her hand on her heart, a kindergartner put her hand behind her. The teacher asked the child why she did that, to which the child replied: "Every time I go to see grandmother, she pats me on the back and says, 'Bless your little heart.'"

—R. Dener

Kerrsed

In the presence of a client he wished to impress, the executive spoke into the intercom to his secretary: "Ms. Kerr, please get my broker on the phone." The client was duly impressed until the secretary responded: "Stock or pawn, sir?"

—Kris Lee

Son Of A Boss

Boss: "In a way, I hate to let you go. You've been sort of like a son to me — sullen, contrary, disrespectful and uncooperative."

—Kenneth E. Hall

Tunnel Vision

Has anyone checked to be sure the switch for the light at the end of the tunnel is still operating?

—Arnot L. Sheppard Jr.

Plenty of Room

Two women spent a good deal of the afternoon trying to impress each other with how religious they were. When one left, the other turned to her husband and remarked, "You know, Mrs. Brown is a good Christian, but I just believe I live closer to the Lord." Her husband thought for a moment and then replied, "Ain't either of you crowding Him any."

—Bobbie Mae Cooley

Definition

A pedestrian is a man whose son just got his driver's license.

—Phillip Edwards

Deceiving Images

As a mother and child sat in the reception room, a patient in his 20s left the dentist's office and walked across the room. He was dressed in sandals and tunic, draped in beads and tressed with shoulder-length locks. The youngster turned to his mother and asked, "Was that the tooth fairy?"

—Oliver Frazier

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